

BUSH BULLETIN

That hung-up tree again!

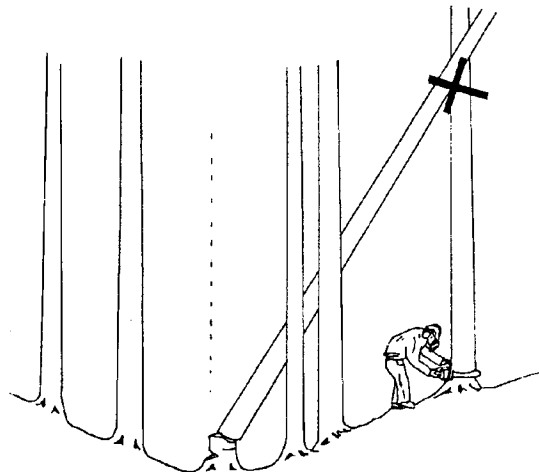
A feller suffered serious injuries when hit by a falling tree.

What happened

A feller scarfed a tree and when the back-cut was put in, the tree sat back. There was no suitable tree available to drive the tree in the intended direction of fall, so the tree was re-scarfed to fall with its lean into standing trees. The back-cut was put in, but the tree lodged in another tree while falling. The feller then moved forward of the cut-up tree to fell another tree. The hung-up tree was dislodged and fell into the work area.

Accident cause

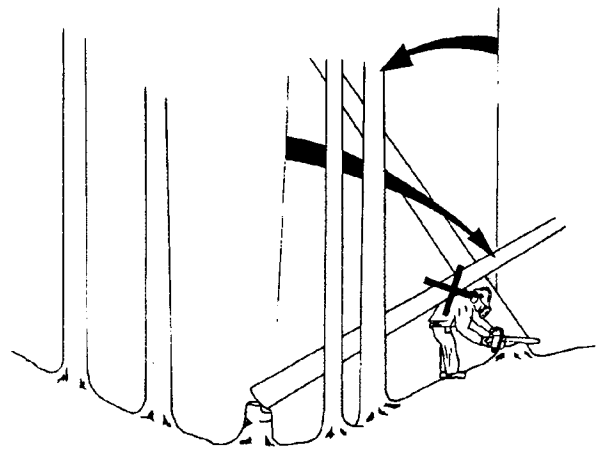
Working forward within two tree lengths of the direction of fall of a hung-up tree.



Prevention

This is a classic example of not following the rules concerning hung-up trees. Let's look at them as detailed in the *Safety Code for Forest Operations — Part 3: Logging*.

1. Where a tree is hung-up it shall be brought to the ground as soon as possible, and before operations continue. The feller should have sought assistance and a machine used to bring the tree to the ground.
2. No person shall move forward within two tree lengths of the intended direction of fall, or the direction of fall of a hung-up tree.



Forestry Inspectors' Seminar

Inspectors (Forestry) — in the past known as bush inspectors, recently attended a training seminar at Napier. Bob Hill, General Manager of OSH and Geoff Wilson, Operations Manager, visited the seminar which was chaired by Chief Advisor (Forestry) Leon McIsaac. The theme of the seminar was to update the inspectors' knowledge of new codes, have the presentation of prepared topics by the inspectors, allow an exchange of views and discuss and solve any operational problems.

Field trips were made to Permilltreat Timbers at Fernhill to discuss timber stacking and packeting and to Pan Pacific Forest Industries complex at Whirinaki. Of particular interest in the log yard at Panpac, was the new Wagner loader and the card-operated weighbridge. The prime attraction in the sawmill was the computerised edger and end trimmer, which electronically scans each board and cuts to best advantage.

A visit to Carter Holt Harvey's Esk Forest featured chainsaw pruning and the demonstration in variable-height pruning of a newly-developed step which chains onto the tree and allows the fitting of the ladder into a groove so that extra height can be given. Inspector Steve Williams' photo illustrates the ladder without its feet on the ground!

A working group, facilitated by Carter Holt Harvey, has been formed to develop a section on chainsaw pruning in the revision of the silviculture code.

A wide number of topics about operational aspects of forest work were discussed and rulings made where appropriate.

Quite a number of safety issues related to logging and these will be considered when the logging code is revised.

One topic that created a lot of discussion was the proposal to require mobile logging machinery to have a form of warrant or



Variable-height pruning using newly-developed step

certificate that certifies that the machinery is sound and safe to use in forestry work. This was prompted by two fatalities involving skidder brake failure causing skidders to roll back over operators breaking out below and, more recently, an inoperative isolating control lever on an excavator resulting in the operator being fatally injured. Leon McIsaac is to follow the matter up.

One ruling that effects all chainsaw users is that after 30 June 1995 they must wear safety leg wear complying with, or better than, the New Zealand Standard (NZS 5840:1988 *Specification for protective legwear for chainsaw users — Amendment 1 1994*). A list of "S" mark manufacturers was given in Bush Bulletin No. 91 February 1995.