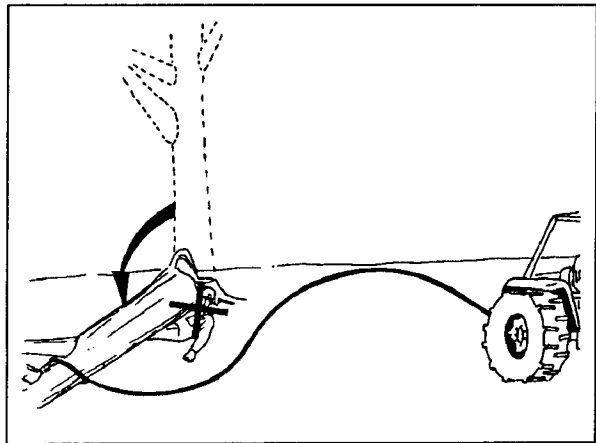
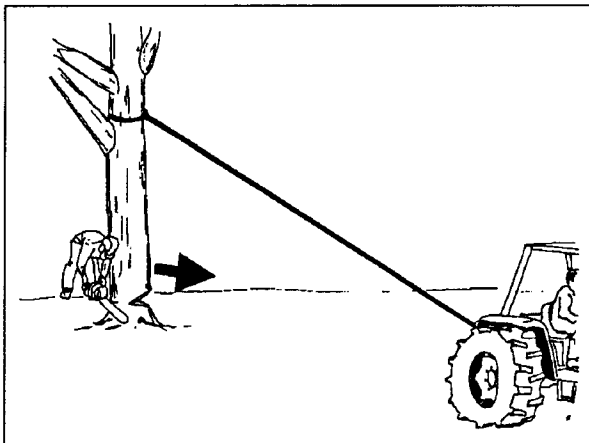


## A Tree Being Winched Hits Faller



### What happened

A farmer and his father were felling trees for firewood for personal use. The son was operating a tractor to pull the shelter-belt trees away from their lean into a neighbouring paddock. The tree that caused the fatality was the one that had the most backward lean and was left until last because of this. A rope was placed about 4 m up the tree. An escape route was prepared. The scarf was placed by the father and the pulling rope tensioned. The rope was taut but no pulling tension was placed on the tree. The father proceeded with the back cut working around from one side to the other. He pulled the saw from the back cut and the tree started to fall. It was falling in the wrong direction and struck him as he began to run away.

### Accident cause

- Hingewood was completely severed from one side of the felling cut. This resulted in a lack of total control of the felling process.
- Tension was not applied constantly to the pulling rope to help control the direction of fall of the tree. In fact, the tension was slackened as the tractor operator thought that this might prevent the faller being hit.

- Although an escape route had been planned and prepared, the faller moved in the opposite direction to try and escape the falling tree.

### Prevention

All back pulling should be carried out by accepted methods as outlined in the *Safety Code for Forestry Operations—Part 3: Logging*. Machinery shall be capable of handling all aspects of the operation. If two tree lengths' clearance is possible, the tree may be pulled towards the tractor as follows:

1. Drive the machine to two tree lengths' distance in the opposite direction to the lean and tension the rope just enough to hold the tree in position.
2. Scarf the tree in the normal manner but opposite to the lean. Back cut ensuring that adequate holding wood is retained. Use wedges if necessary.
3. Retire to a safe position before signalling for the pull to commence.
4. Apply tension to the pulling rope and then commence the pull, slowly at first and then increase speed as the felling cuts take control. If pulling is stopped prematurely, the tree may break sideways.

# Odds and Ends

## All terrain vehicles (ATVs)

At present, an industry working party is preparing a draft *Standard for the Manufacture, Testing and Fitting of ROPS for ATVs*. The ROPS would simply be a type of roll bar similar to that fitted to farm tractors. A static hydraulic test rig is planned to carry out tests on existing ATV ROPS.

Britain's Health and Safety Executive has also turned their attention to an ATV ROPS Standard and has carried out computer modelling.

The question of wearing of seat belts has resulted in many submissions—all opposed to the requirement to wear them. The main objections were:

1. That ATVs are rider-active vehicles and ATV riding and control requires the movement of the body as the vehicle encounters changing ground conditions. Seat belts would severely restrict this movement
2. That the ROPS did not have the configuration, due to being so open, to protect the operator like the canopy type on logging machines or the energy-absorbing surfaces like the interior of a car in the event of a roll over.

The debate concerning wearing of seat belts on ATVs does not have anything to do with the wearing of seat belts in mobile plant used in forestry work.

## Wear your seat belt at all times while operating mobile plant!

## A comparison of British Columbian and New Zealand logging fatalities

Although not for comparable periods, the table gives some idea of the level of fatalities in the various parts of logging.

The figures cannot be directly compared due to the different nature of operations, but do illustrate that felling trees and operating skidders are the two most common causes of fatal accidents in both countries.

The British Columbian fatalities included that of a feller buncher operator, not wearing a seat belt, who

was thrown out and crushed when the machine rolled.

	British Columbia %	New Zealand %
Bulldozer operator	1	13
Hauler operator	1	5
Faller	46	33
Breaker-out	11	8
Truck driver	12	3
Skidder operator	19	15
Skidwork	5	10
Trimming	5	13

## Felling fatalities

Felling trees continues to be the operation in logging where the largest number of fatalities occur. In a coming up Forestry Bulletin we will look at these and serious harm felling accidents and ways of trying to reduce them.

## Statistics—serious harm accidents

We are currently developing a computer system for the recording and analysing of serious harm accidents reported to OSH. Details of such accidents will once again become a regular feature in the *Forestry Bulletin* once the system is in place.

## Leon McIsaac, Chief Adviser (Forestry) Retires

Leon McIsaac took early retirement in July this year after 26 years with the Department of Labour. He will be known and accepted by many of you in the industry as a no-holds-barred forthright campaigner for workers' rights.

Leon started in Napier in June 1970 and had two Head Office stints as Chief Adviser, firstly from 1980 to 1984 and secondly (domiciled in Rotorua) from 1988 until his retirement this year.

We wish him well in his retirement.

Good luck Leon with your gardening, fishing and caravanning.