

# FORESTRY BULLETIN

## More Dangerous Logging Work Delimiting and Heading-Off Trees

### Part One: What's Happening

Continuing the trend of the last few Forestry Bulletins, this is another two-parter. This time we look at delimiting and heading-off operations.

In this bulletin we will look at what accidents are happening in delimiting and heading-off operations. This will be followed up, in Forestry Bulletin No. 112, with a look at ways of reducing fatalities and serious harm accidents in these operations.

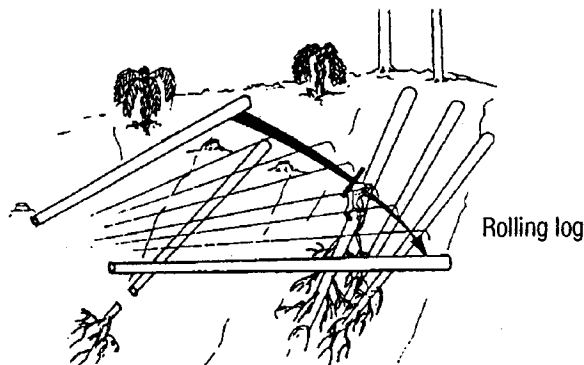
These two bulletins should be read together.

Let's look at the delimiting and heading-off fatality and serious harm accidents reported to OSH.

In logging, one tenth of fatalities and a quarter of serious harm accidents reported to OSH took place while delimiting and heading-off trees.

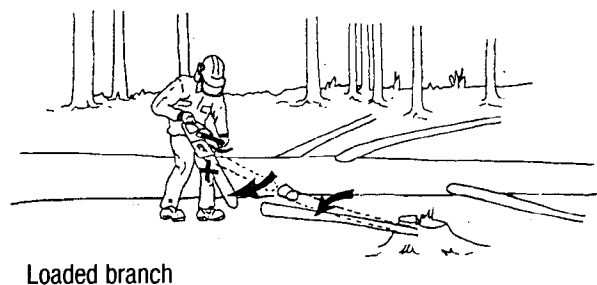
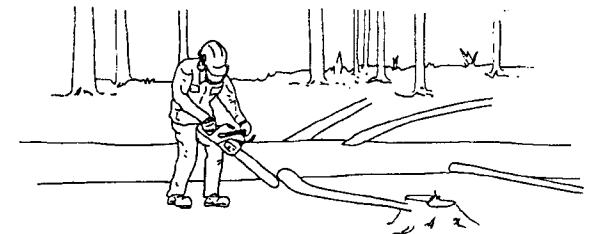
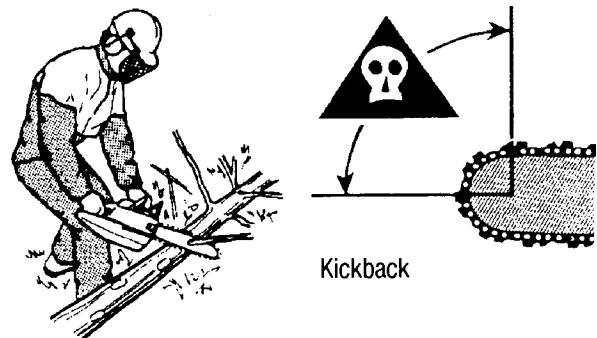
#### Fatalities (1 July 1992 to 30 June 1996)

- Rolling log struck trimmer working below 1
- Standing on lower side of log—crushed when log rolled as headed off 1
- Trimming tree. Thrown under tree when it rolled 1



#### Serious Harm Accidents (1 July 1993 to 31 December 1995)

<b>Chainsaws:</b>	<b>55%</b>
Kickback	23
Lacerations from general work	12
Loaded branch threw saw back	12
Fell on saw	4
Maintenance of saw	2
Chain broke or came off	2

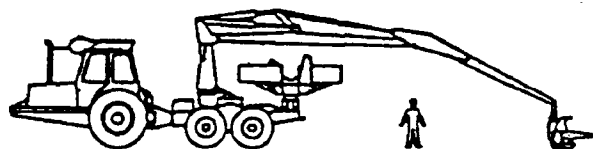


<b>Trees/Logs</b>	<b>29%</b>
Slipped or fell off log	13
Tree rolled/slid while being delimited	6
Tree rolled/kicked at head-off	6
Thrown off log by movement while delimiting	2
Jumped off log	2
<b>Branch</b>	<b>6%</b>
Loaded (tensioned) branch hit worker when cut	6
<b>Access</b>	<b>6%</b>
Tripped, slid, fell between trees or while delimiting	6
<b>Falling object</b>	<b>4%</b>
Hit by falling branch, dead top or section of another tree	4

**Mechanisation**

In logging, over one third of the fatalities and half the serious harm accidents reported to OSH occur in felling, delimiting and heading off operations.

Mechanisation is one way of reducing the number of people at the sharp end and is already on the way for a wide range of operations and is likely to gain momentum in the next few years.

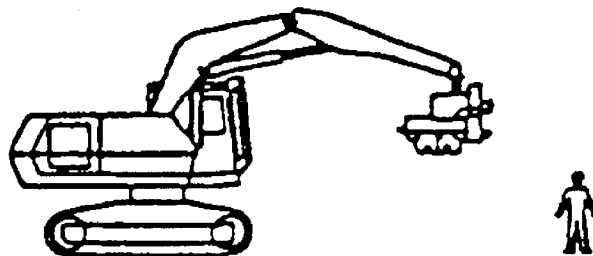


Stroke-boom delimiter

Forestry (Bush) Bulletin No. 87 (September 1994) refers to this trend. Let's look at the views of people quoted in that issue.

John Gaskin of LIRO: "I think that in 25 years' time 50% of harvesting will be mechanised".

Greg Bell stated that Forestry Corp had set a long-term goal of 80% mechanised thinnings.

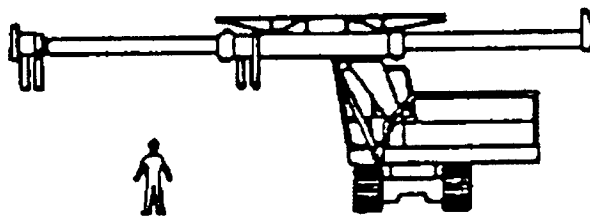


Grapple processor (delimiter)

Bill Sewell of Carter Holt Harvey said the industry is changing rapidly to mechanisation.

Michael Duggan of Tasman informed of recent and proposed contracts for mechanisation.

Several of the above said that the Health and Safety in Employment Act would effect the speed of mechanisation to try and isolate employees from these major causes of fatalities and serious accidents.



Double grip feller-delimiter

**Now read the accompanying Forestry Bulletin No. 112 for ways of reducing fatalities and accidents in delimiting and heading off.**

**Clarification of Forestry Bulletin No. 102**

(Contributed by Shar Downes)

This bulletin listed fatalities for 1995/96. Concern has been expressed that fatal accidents in which death was caused through no fault of the deceased were listed with fatalities caused by minimum work/safety standards not being adhered to.

With the high mortality rate in forestry accidents being an ongoing concern for all parties involved, it is to everyone's advantage

that we work continuously to bring down the mortality figures in forestry.

There was no intention to imply that all fatalities were the result of poor work practices. The details of the fatalities were listed as an aid to make people aware of how easy it is to die in the forest and perhaps as a possible deterrent for future accidents.