



FIPS # 1001 – Lost Time Injury (1 day). A Waste Thinner was felling pine trees amongst old Kanuka spars.

As one of the pine trees fell it snapped the top out of one of the Kanuka. The top fell and hit the worker on the shoulder causing bruising. The injured man visited A&E and was later cleared to return to work.

Tree Felling – Safety Alert!

FIPS # 1065 – Lost Time Injury (16 days). A Tree Faller was working in clearfell-age pine across broken ground in a Central North Island forest. The 'accident-causing tree' was felled across a small rut. It appears to have pivoted on the opposing brow causing the butt-end to rise sharply. The butt-end then swung around and back toward the faller as he made his way along the escape route. The butt of the tree hit the faller before swinging back up into the air. The tree then broke on the brow, crashed back down and pinned the faller.



The faller did not have an effective means of communication (RT) to summons assistance in an emergency situation!



NZ – 6 Tree Felling Fatalities so far this 2006 year!

Safe Felling Practices

Escape route, butt-kick and emergency communication

- Clear vegetation and branches from around the sides & behind the tree.
- Make the scarf cut and back cut.
- As the tree begins to fall, switch off the saw & move into the escape route. Switching the saw off allows you to hear falling branches & cones.
- Keep a watch and listen for falling material.
- Be prepared for kick-back of the butt or bouncing of the tree as it hits the ground.
- The faller must have an effective means of communication to summons assistance in an emergency situation!

Cuts and Wedging

Use the correct cuts for the size of tree & wedges if the tree might sit back.

Use a:

- Split level back cut for small diameter trees.
- Conventional back cut for medium diameter trees (bar goes right through tree).
- ‘Quarter-cut’ back cut for large diameter trees (bar does not go right through tree).

Trimming

Trimming limbs can be fatiguing if not done correctly.

- Work at the right height.
- Keep the saw close to your body.
- Move the saw the shortest distance between limbs, and support the saw on your thigh or the tree trunk.
- Try to trim by walking alongside the tree, only if the area is clear enough from debris and vegetation and if the tree is stable.
- When trimming from the stem, the distance to the ground should be no more than 1.5 metres.
- Always work on the uphill side of a slope.
- Assess for branches under tension – stand away from the tension when cutting.