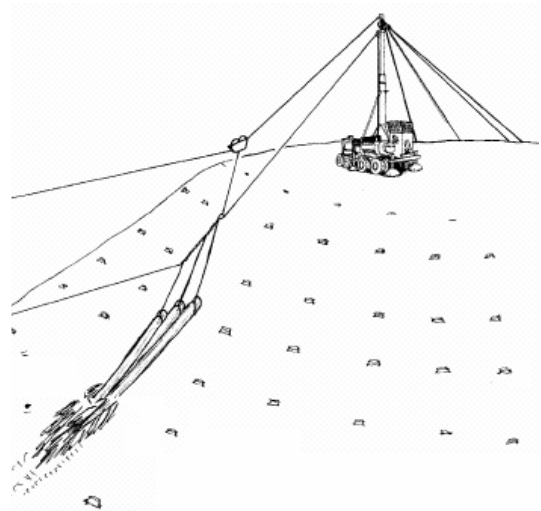


Breaking out – Serious Harm!

Two very serious breaking-out incidents provide a reminder to use the correct signals and assess hazards properly:

LTI 13/05/08 – Marlborough

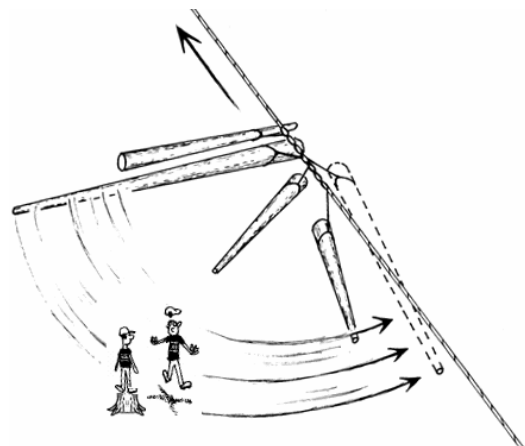
FIPS # 1949: As a tree was hauled, the butt end caught on to the tail rope and dragged it up the hill. Hauling stopped and the Breaker-out, not realising the tree was under tension, approached the fouled tree. The tree broke under load, snapped back, hitting him and fracturing his leg.



LTI 23/06/08 – Bay of Plenty

FIPS # 2018: Two Breaker-outs, working a face, sent the rigging further up the hill, and attached one stem. They attempted to attach two further stems, both located lower down the face. (NB: At this stage they were below the top log and on the working side of the skyline and ropes.)

As the strops would not reach they called for slack. The Hauler Operator, misunderstood one of the signals, and continued on the main rope. This pulled the top stem forward dislodging a small pulp log lying across it. The pulp log moved down hill and struck one of the Breaker-outs in the leg, breaking his leg.



NB: Graphics illustrate haulier operations and known hazards

Breaking out and Hauler Operation – Points to observe:

1. It has been identified that many crews are not using the correct **signalling methods**¹ as specified in the Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Forest Operations, p. 96 and p. 21 – 22 of the Best Practice Guidelines for Cable Logging (BPG):
 - The Code is very clear; one short blast is ‘**stop any ropes**’. If Breaker-outs wish any other actions, then the correct signals must be those outlined unless a recognised system, that sets a higher safety standard, is used.
 - The stop signal (one short blast) is to be used on its own and all ropes must be stationary before any further signal is used.
 - Take care not to run signals together. Allow sufficient time between different signals and always check/repeat the signal if you are unsure.

2. In terms of hazards, Breaker-outs must assess the hazards correctly and **remain in the clear**:
 - ‘When breaking out logs on a hillside, always stand on the uphill side of the logs or rigging’², in the clear.
 - BPG p. 103, (7): ‘Once standing clear of the rigging (in a safe position³), the head Breaker-out may signal the Hauler Operator to lower the rigging further to provide more reach.’
 - BPG p. 102: If the drag becomes fouled (1) do not over tension the ropes and rigging, (2) Investigate the situation and assess hazards.

¹ It is appreciated that some signal systems may in some instances set a higher ‘safety’ practice standard however, PF Olsen Limited has accepted the ACOP and the BPG as the benchmark for compliance.

² Reference to the ‘Safety Code for Bush Undertakings – Part 3’ Logging – still useful and sound advice.

³ Guideline: ‘Safe position’ means the non-working side of the skyline, use a minimum 1.5 times the longest stem in the drag.