

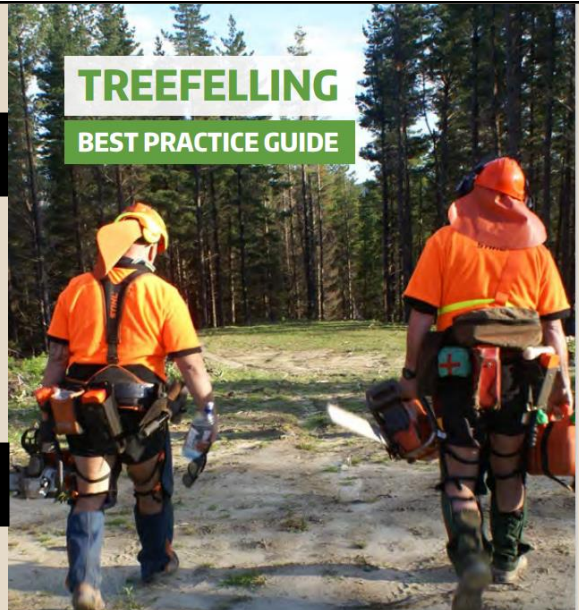


INCIDENT REFERENCE: Manual felling incident 27.03.23 DATE ISSUE: 20/04/2023

SAFETY ALERT#: 017

Manual Felling Within the Estate.

DATE: 04/04/2023 PLANT TYPE: N/A
LOCATION: All Forests
TIME: Daylight Hours SITE/BU: All



DESCRIPTION

Following the Manual Felling tragedy that has occurred in the Wanganui region, this is an Alert to promote a refocus and review of our Processes, procedures, qualifications, and equipment. To check that we all are operating to a level that should not only meet standards but aspire to exceed them.

We all need to get home to our families at the end of every workday.

Resources: Treefelling BPG May 2016 & Forestry ACOP

CONTROL MEASURES

During the harvest planning stage, the principal PCBU and contractor must put a process in place to address the seven key causes of harm. This identifies the hazards in a block and assesses the risks before work starts.

This process is part of developing the tree felling plan.

Planning must include hazard identification and assessment of the significant risks in the felling area, including:

- overhead hazards i.e., hung-up trees, sailors, interlocking branches, dead or broken tops
- tree condition i.e., split, dead, unstable, windthrown, or diseased trees.
- the predominant wind direction, including safer and more protected zones a faller could move to if the wind gets up (e.g., behind a hill or in a gully bottom)
- trees that have had their roots disturbed by tracking, wind damage, water erosion, etc.

Suitable control measures must be put in place to manage significant hazards identified within the tree felling area in order to complete the site assessment.

THE SEVEN KEY CAUSES OF HARM

1. A faller working too close to other people or plant.
2. Broken limbs or top hitting the faller.
3. Incorrect or poor felling technique
4. Felling dead trees
5. A faller being struck from behind by an object or tree.
6. Hung up trees left standing, or not felled using the correct methods.
7. Stem movement/rebound and butt swing.

This Safety Alert must be posted on all notice boards and used by supervisors at Toolbox Meetings

DAILY TREE FALLER MEETINGS

A plan for the day's tree felling must be made each morning during the tailgate meeting. Attendees should be the crew manager, fallers, observer, and contact person. It is not necessary to discuss items already covered in the felling plan for the block unless there's been a change in the plan.

FIVE-STEP TREE FELLING PROCEDURE

No two trees are the same. Variations in tree size and features, terrain and the operational conditions create a variety of tree felling situations. There is some level of hazard to deal with for every tree.

Fallers must follow five critical steps to minimize the risk of injury to themselves or others:

1. Site Assessment
2. Individual tree assessment
3. Preparation of the work area and escape route
4. Fell the tree using safe tree felling practices
5. Retreat and observe

On-going competency checks for all workers through audits, safe behavioural observations or certification are a recent initiative introduced to some sectors of the industry. These demonstrate that workers in high-risk jobs are maintaining the standards required to achieve their original qualifications. All these checks must be documented.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WORK SITES

Nga hoa i te Haumarū (Partners in Safety)