



## Breaker-out struck by swinging log



### INCIDENT

A 41-year-old breaker-out suffered five broken ribs and grazing to his face when he was struck by a log which swung uphill. He failed to check a drag he'd set up before signaling to the hauler operator.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

The breaker-out had hooked up three long logs and one short one. He was moving into a safe position and at the same time signalling for the hauler-operator to take up the slack on the tow rope.

The short log hit a stump and swung around in an arcing, uphill movement. The log struck the breaker-out below the left shoulder blade. The force of the log carried him 4-6 metres before it changed trajectory and passed over him.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the breaker-out:

- Failed to evaluate the drag correctly.
- Was standing too close to the drag when giving the go-ahead signal.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

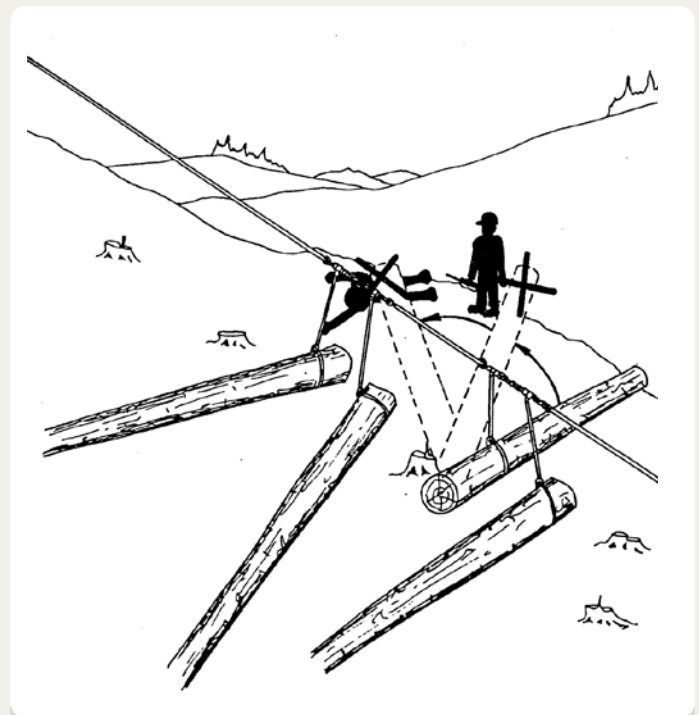
Rules as stated in the: Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Forest Operations

#### 15: RULES FOR BREAKING OUT AND EXTRACTION

##### GENERAL

##### Rule

1. The person in charge of breaking out shall have a clear, unmistakable system of signalling.
2. Only one person shall give signals at any one time.  
Exception: Any person may give an emergency or stop signal.
3. The breaker-out shall move to a safe position:
  - where movement will not be restricted;
  - behind the uphill side of the drag (if possible);
  - out of the rope bight;
  - clear of any material likely to be dislodged during the extraction;
  - Out of reach of any log swinging or upending before signalling the machine operator to breakout.



*Note: This material has been prepared using the best information available to the Department of Labour at the time of publication. Information may change over time and it may be necessary for you to obtain an update. This material is also only intended to provide general advice and does not constitute legal advice. You should make your own judgement about action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with your workplace health and safety obligations under the law.*