



Remember the “Two Tree-Length Rule”

INCIDENT

A 55-year-old logger was seriously injured when struck by a section of a falling tree.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The worker was helping during the break-out phase of a logging operation. Edge trees were being felled by pushing them with a skidder after they were scarfed and back-cut.

Thinking he would be safe, the worker stood to the rear of the skidder.

As the skidder operator pushed the trees, one small tree fell away from the intended direction over the skidder canopy. The top section broke on impact and struck the worker standing at the rear of the skidder.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the accident was caused by:

- The operator because he failed to ensure that other workers were in a safe position at least two tree-lengths away before pushing the trees.
- The worker because he positioned himself within two tree-lengths of the trees being felled.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

Department of Labour Advice

Section 18.9 of the Logging Code applies. Rules as stated in the: *Approved Code of Practice for Safety and Health in Forest Operations*

14: RULES FOR TREE FELLING

3. SAFETY AREAS

Rule

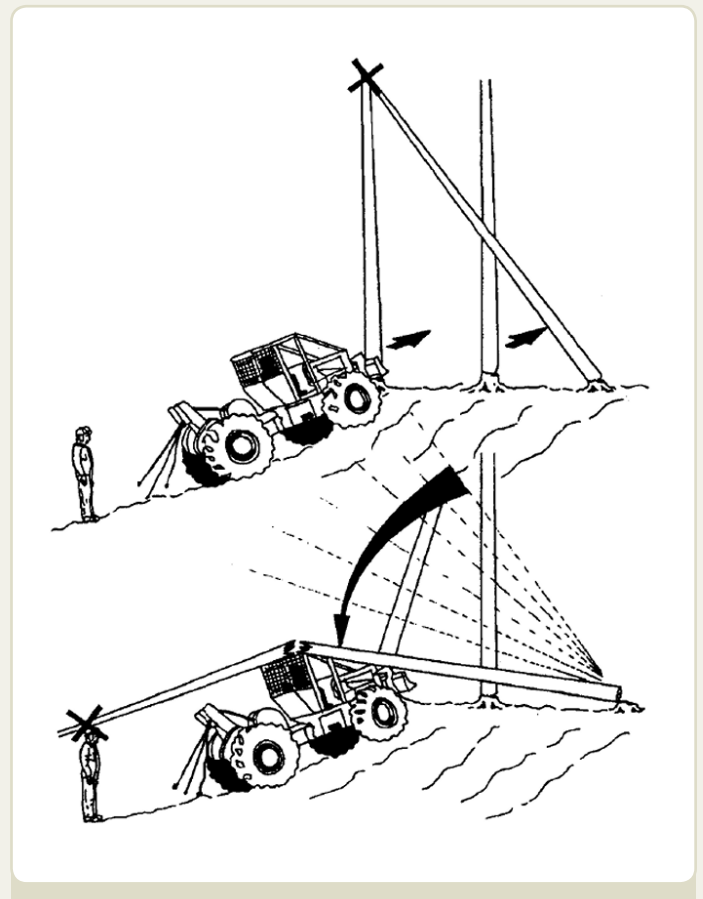
1 Tree fallers shall ensure that no:

- Other person;
- Machine;
- Operating ropes;
- Other operations;

is/are within two tree-lengths of the tree being felled.

2 No person shall be closer than two tree-lengths to a tree being felled, unless:

- Assisting with felling;
- Supervising;
- Training others;
- Being trained.



TO WHICH INDUSTRIES/SECTORS OR MATTERS WILL THIS INFORMATION BE RELEVANT?

- Forestry
- Mobile plant

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.