



## Tree faller seriously injured when struck by spar tree



### INCIDENT

A 27-year-old tree faller suffered a broken pelvis and back injuries when he was hit by a falling spar tree.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

Two tree fallers working together were butting off and limbing windthrow trees.

One tree faller decided to fell a spar tree by placing a small cut in the intended direction of fall and then following up with a back cut, leaving no holding wood. The tree fell sideways, striking the other tree faller who was trimming a tree five metres away.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the tree faller breached the "two tree-length" rule Department of Labour Advice

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

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

#### SAFETY AREAS

##### Rule

#### 1 Fellers shall ensure that no:

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

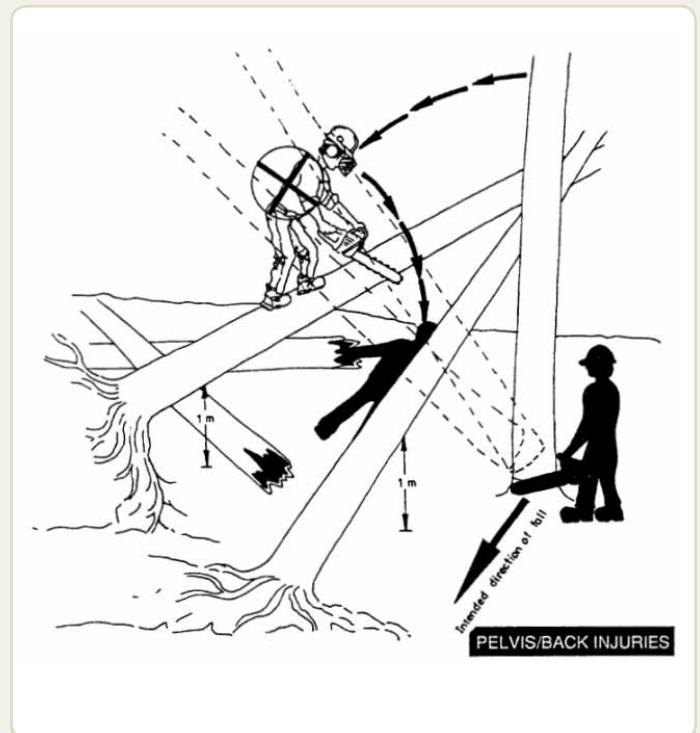
is/are within two tree lengths of the tree being felled.

#### 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



*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.*

