



## Tree faller struck and killed by falling leader



### INCIDENT

A tree faller was fatally injured when he was struck by a leader in a radiata pine clear-felling operation.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

A leader had been partially supported by a tree felled previously and was then weakened further when it was struck by the head of another tree.

The leader fell without warning and hit the tree faller on the head and shoulder, inflicting injuries from which he later died.

### INVESTIGATION

The tree faller was an experienced logger and should have noticed the weakened leader. However, debris near where the leader broke would have made detection difficult from the ground.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

Ensure that all overhead hazards created as a result of tree felling operations are identified, isolated and eliminated prior to conducting work in the area.

*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.*

