



Watch for dangers at breakout

INCIDENT

A tree faller was struck by a rolling log as a drag was being extracted by a skidder.

CIRCUMSTANCES

While a drag of logs was being broken out, one log, slid on top of the other logs and slipped downhill. A worker who was felling a tree nearby was struck by the log and seriously injured.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that there were two main reasons for the accident.

1. At the breakout, the person in charge of the breakout should have realised that workers were operating within two tree-lengths of the person carrying out the felling. There was a lack of organisation and operations should have been stopped until the situation had been rectified.
2. The tree faller should also have made sure that the breakout operation was at least two tree-lengths away from the felling face.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

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

If the "two tree-lengths" rule had been followed there would have been no accident.

Sections 18.8 [fellers' responsibilities] and 25 [breakout situation] refer.

3. SAFETY AREAS

Rule

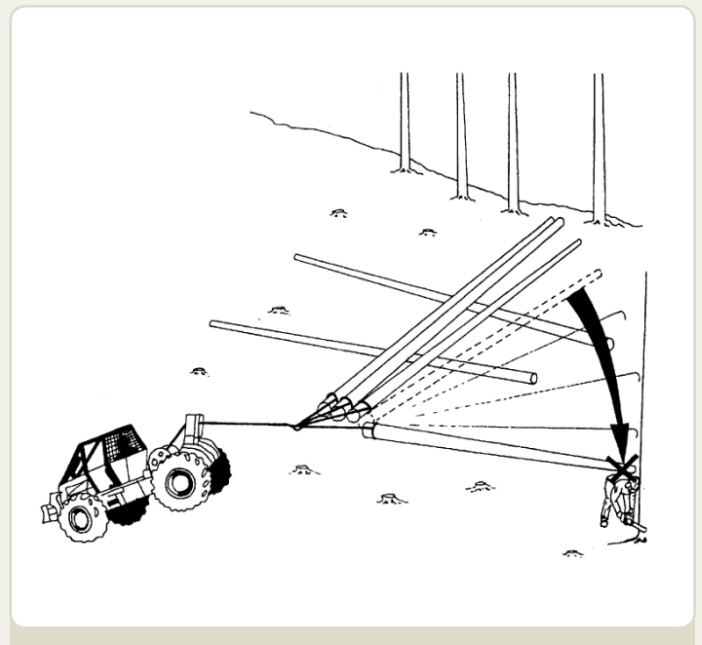
1 Tree fallers shall ensure that no:

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

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

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

- Forestry
- Mobile plant



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