

Hazard



Alert!

Promoting Safe Workplaces... Protecting Employers and Workers

Hazard Summary

In June of 2003 a forestry worker received a traumatic spinal cord injury while trying to remove a lodged tree. The worker had cut a tree which hung up during the felling process. The worker then positioned himself under the lodged tree and proceeded to cut the supporting tree. This caused the lodged tree to fall and strike the worker on top of his helmet.



Cause

- *Forestry worker had no formal training in forestry safe work practices*
- *Proper felling techniques were not followed*
- *Improper planning of work area*

Recommended Precautions

- ! **Plan your escape route and an alternative route, in case the tree does not fall according to plan**
- ! **Make sure you have all the tools you'll need for the job**
- ! **Examine the tree. Check for the following: size, height, and condition**
- ! **Check to see if other standing trees will be struck or brushed**
- ! **The arrangement of limbs may be a factor to consider**
- ! **Lean can be difficult to determine, use an axe as a plumb**
- ! **If the tree becomes lodged during the felling process the lodged tree can be removed by using a skidder or forwarder; by rolling the tree free; prying the butt backwards; or by bucking off short pieces**
- ! **If the lodged tree can not be removed immediately, properly mark or flag the area to alert others of the hazard**

For more information contact
the Workers Compensation Board
at (902) 368-5697, or visit our website at
www.wcb.pe.ca

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