

SAFETY ALERT

FALLER SUSTAINS SERIOUS INJURIES

INCIDENT DATE:

June 11, 2007

INCIDENT LOCATION:

Northeastern BC



DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT:

A Lead Faller (Certified Competent Snag Faller) following a surveyed line, identified a tree and decided to fell the tree rather than having the line adjusted to avoid the tree. The Faller completed a felling notch - the felling notch was not clean leaving a "Dutchman" present. Based on the position of the notch, the Faller was attempting to fell the tree with the lean into standing timber. The Faller then completed the notch and moved to the opposite side of the tree to complete the back cut.

While completing the back cut, the Faller cut off a portion of the holding wood (hinge wood). The tree began to fall into the standing timber and brushed several trees; the Faller did not retreat from the stump and remained at the base of the felled tree. One of the standing trees brushed and detached from the root and fell back towards the originating stump striking the Faller directly on his head and glancing down the left side of his torso. The ERP was initiated; the Faller was evacuated from the field and is currently in hospital.

Substandard Acts committed by the Faller;

- Decision to fell a non-hazardous tree;
- Assessment of area and tree prior to felling;
- Constructing and utilizing an escape route;
- Felling a tree into standing timber;
- Awareness in the active felling area.

OUTCOME:

The Lead Faller working in Northeastern British Columbia was struck on the head and left side of the torso by a tree that was damaged due to the primary tree being felled into standing timber. The Certified Faller suffered serious injuries to his spine and torso.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- All Fallers, regardless of certification level will be evaluated for competency prior to beginning Falling operations
- Increase the line and heli-pad evaluation scoring requirements for line inspections and ongoing competency evaluations;
- Development of a remedial training process for Fallers identified as not meeting the standard

Important note - It is imperative to ensure all personnel operating on a site are evaluated and deemed competent to perform the assigned task, regardless of current certification(s).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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