

The Safety Flyer

PAN PAC FOREST PRODUCTS

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FELLING TRAGEDY

Recently a worker died while conducting tree felling in an Ernslaw One Forest near Gisborne.

The crew member had been in the process of opening up an area for the hauler. The crew member was driving a tree to clear a hang up. During the process the driver has hit a spar and the butt of the tree has come back towards him and struck him fatally across his upper body. The faller called for help over his RT but died later at the scene.

At the time of the accident the crew member was trying to drive a tree onto a hung up tree (Fig 1) the tree has struck the hung up and slid down it. The driver then hit a spar tree (Fig 2), as it has hit the spar tree the driver has sea sawed and caused the butt to lift into the air then moved backwards past the stump by 1.5m (Fig 3) and struck the crew member.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Poor Felling Technique

Hang up tree: In cutting into too much of the hingewood from one side, the faller has been unsuccessful in turning the tree and this has caused the tree to fall away from him and hang up.

Poor Risk Assessment Process

The faller failed to identify the risk that the spar posed, failed to clear an escape route and retreat.

Procedures Followed Incorrectly

There were a number of tree drivers done in that strip on the day, as well as the drive onto the hung up that the faller failed to call in.

FIG 1

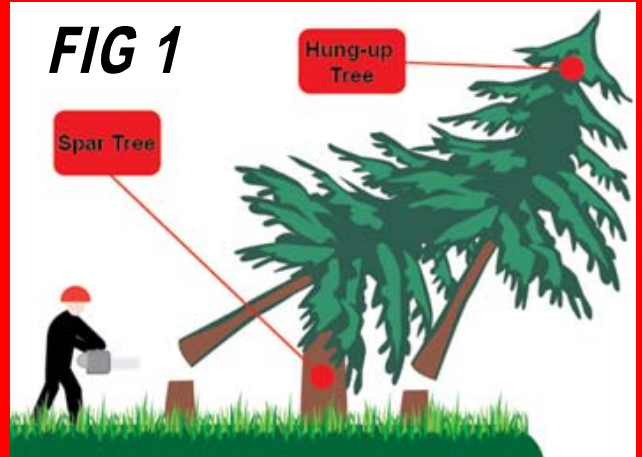


FIG 2



FIG 3

