

The Safety Flyer

PAN PAC FOREST PRODUCTS
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No. 257

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FERRULE POPS OFF STROP WHILE MACHINE ASSISTING

EVENT:

Machine assisting a tree away from 33KW lines using Cat 527. The strop was placed up the tree as high as possible, scarfed and quarter cut was put in, with a wedge inserted on the heavy leaning side. After finishing the second quarter cut and moving out to the escape route, weight was applied to the rope which started moving the tree, then the rope went slack and the tree sat back.

CAUSE:

The ferrule had popped off the end of the strop, which caused the tree to sit back.

ACTION:

The faller had seen the winch rope and strops were new, but should have checked that the strops were made correctly regardless.

No harm would have come to the Faller or observer if the tree had snapped off backwards, because the lines were shut down and earthed, but it would have caused serious damage to the lines, costing a lot of money.

