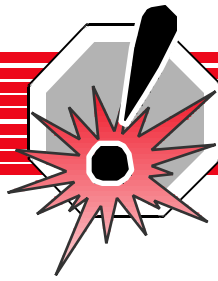


HAZARD ALERT



STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

A thirty-seven year old woodworker was fatally injured while cutting pulpwood on a private wood lot. He was accompanied by the landowner and both were felling trees when the accident occurred.

The worker warned the owner to watch out as he was about to fell a large poplar tree (22" diameter x 75' tall). The landowner stopped and watched him notch and backcut the tree. As the tree fell, he saw the worker

taking only one step off to the side. Instead of one tree coming down, two poplar trees fell. The second tree fell on the victim, causing fatal injuries.

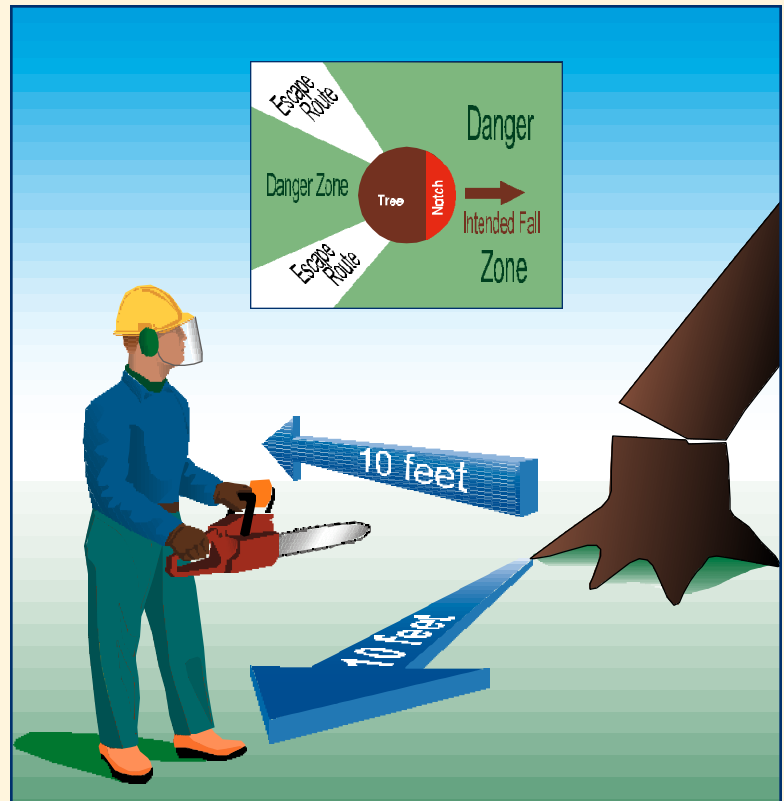
The WHSCC investigation revealed that the tops of the two poplar trees were entwined. By taking only one step away from the tree he had cut, the worker actually stepped in the other tree's line of fall.

Recommended Preventive Action

When felling trees, workers too often don't recognize the dangers of falling tops, broken branches and kickbacks from stumps. As a result, they do not retreat far enough from the danger zone.

- Before felling a tree, a visual inspection of the immediate area must be done and potential hazards eliminated.
- Work should be planned and executed in a manner that eliminates the threat of trees falling together.
- Contractors, supervisors and workers must ensure that the escape route is clear of obstructions and must use it once the tree begins to fall.
- Workers should retreat at a **45 degree angle** and **at least ten feet from a falling tree**.

Retreat for your life!



Prevention Services, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission

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WHSCC
All Accidents are Preventable

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Check out the CCOHS website, www.ccohs.ca, or call 1 800 263-8466 for health and safety information.