

# HAZARD ALERT



## PARTIALLY CUT TREES LEFT STANDING: A REAL DANGER

**A** tree that has been improperly cut at the stump and allowed to remain standing will fall at some point in time. When, precisely, the tree will fall, and in what direction, is unpredictable. Recently, in New Brunswick, a 56 year old woodworker was killed when partially cut trees, left standing, fell on him.

The man was working alone, cutting and transporting logs, when the accident occurred.



He had cut three trees: one had fallen to the ground while the other two became lodged and remained standing. The worker was crushed while limbing the fallen tree. At that time, he was standing directly in the falling path of the lodged trees.

WHSCC investigating officers determined that the primary causes of the accident were **working under trees left standing** and **poor felling techniques**.

## Recommended Preventive Action

1. When felling a tree, an employee shall:
  - i) properly notch and back-cut the trees, [Section 354(2) (a) *Reg. 91-191*]
  - ii) use a felling lever or wedge as required, [Section 354(2) (b) *Reg. 91-191*]
  - iii) complete the felling once it has been started. [Section 354(2) (c) *Reg. 91-191*]
2. Where an employee fells a tree and the tree becomes lodged, the employee shall ensure that the lodged tree is removed as soon as possible. [Section 354(3) (b) *Reg. 91-191*]
3. An employer shall ensure that an employee who operates a chain saw, brush saw or clearing saw does not work alone. [Section 351(1) *Reg. 91-191*]

With appropriate training, procedures and precautions, logging operations need not become a threat to workers' safety. **Never leave a partially cut tree standing!**

Prevention Services, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission  
514 Beaverbrook Court, 4th Floor, Fredericton, New Brunswick E2B 3X1 (2025) 43-2445 Fax (2025) 453-7482

**WHSCC**  
All Accidents are Preventable

Issued: June 1999

Check out the CCOHS website, [www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca), or call 1 800 263-8466 for health and safety information.