

Work **Safe!** Bulletin

HAZARDS OF 'CHICOTS'

BULLETIN NO. 101
October 1989



ACCIDENT:

A logger, in the process of felling a 45-foot spruce tree, was killed when a section of a nearby 'chicot' (a dead, or partially dead, standing tree) fell and struck the worker.

CAUSE:

The area where the spruce tree was to be felled was obstructed by blown down trees and standing chicots.

The escape route from the falling tree was not adequately cleared of brush or chicots. In addition, the tree was felled cross-wind, across the standing face, and it was not properly undercut. All these conditions contributed to the resulting fatality when the falling spruce tree struck a chicot, causing it to fall unexpectedly on the worker.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

In accordance with Manitoba Logging Regulations (M.R. 102/88R) the following procedures shall be undertaken to ensure the safe felling of trees:

- Before felling or bucking a tree, cut and clean away any obstructions and ensure that the travel of the saw is clear;
- Before felling a tree ensure that any chicots in the vicinity of the tree have been felled or pushed safely to the ground.
- Before felling a tree, ensure that the feller is able to stand clear of the tree during its fall;
- Ensure that any tree cut or partially cut, standing on the stump, or hung up in adjacent trees is pushed or lowered safely to the ground, before the next tree is felled.
- Ensure that a proper undercut is made in each tree being felled and ensure that the undercut is complete and cleaned out.

The employer of workers in the logging industry is responsible to ensure that workers are trained in safe logging procedures. A documented training program should be developed and implemented by the employer to ensure that workers conduct their work safely.