

FATALITY ALERT

BCFSC # 2014-12-07 Fatality

On December 7th, a faller was fatally injured while bucking a tree at a helicopter logging operation on Vancouver Island.

This is the third direct harvesting related fatality of 2014. Two out of the three fatal incidents have involved falling or bucking trees. Our condolences go out to the family and co-workers of the deceased worker.

WorkSafeBC and the Coroner's Service are investigating this incident and the results will be released as soon as possible.

Although the details of this incident are still unknown, take the time to review the following bucking related safety alerts with your crew:

1) Faller struck while bucking windfall

<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1979>

2) WorkSafeBC Hazard Alert - Bucked log rolls down slope, kills young worker

http://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/2013/ha2013-8_young_worker.html

3) Faller's leg pinned

<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1949>

<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1675>

Some of the key recommendations from these alerts include:

- Conduct a thorough bucking assessment and address any identified risks before bucking. Follow the assessment procedures provided in the BC Faller Training Standard.
http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/bc_faller_training_standard_2.pdf
- When a high risk bucking situation is recognized, consider alternate methods. This could include: calling for assistance, blasting, or repositioning the log during the yarding phase.
- Follow Safe Bucking Procedures which include: brushing out the work area to allow freedom of movement, reassessing hazards after each cut, ensuring adequate escape route(s) and stable footing.



BC Forest Safety
Unsafe is Unacceptable