



SAFETY ALERT

MACHINE ASSIST FELLING

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ISSUE

Pushing edge trees over with a digger. Machine operator was holding the tree with the grapple while the faller was putting in the scarf. The grapple dislodged a branch which struck the faller across his back.

Does your crew use mobile plant to assist with felling difficult trees?

“Broken limbs or top hitting the faller” is the third on the list of seven key causes of harm to fallers. So, please take some time to read the requirements outlined in the ACoP 11. TREE FELLING and ensure you understand ALL of these requirements.



1. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ensure you have NZQA Unit Standard 24569 if you fell trees using machine pushing assistance.
- You must have NZQU Unit Standard 24570 if you fell trees using pulling assistance.
- All contractors must conduct monthly Safe Behavioural Observation Audits on all fallers.

2. CONTROLS TO EFFECTVELY MANAGE MACHINE ASSIST FELLING:

- All fallers **MUST** follow their tree felling policy, which **MUST** cover machine assistance.
- The correct procedure is, position the machine to strip the tree of unsafe branching, if possible.
- Then scarf, backcut and wedge your tree, before moving away to allow the machine to push.
- At no time should the faller work directly underneath the raised equipment.
- Use this link to find out more about the Koller Mechanical Felling Wedge Trial on the Ernslaw One Contractor page at www.ernslaw.co.nz/research-and-development/



EVERYONE GOES HOME SAFELY AT THE END OF THE DAY!