

# FELLED TREE DROPS ON CO-WORKER

## 1 Introduction

Use this story to have a conversation with your workers about:

- How an injury can affect them and their family and why it's important to stay attentive.
- What employers and workers can do to prevent injuries from falling trees and branches.
- The procedures to follow if they get hurt.

*"Today we are going to talk about safety practices to use when thinning trees. We will start with the experience of one forest worker and how this injury could have been prevented. This story was shared by a forest worker who works in the Northwest U.S."*



## How could this injury have been prevented?

### Be Prepared

- Assess the site before starting work.
- Hold a pre-work safety meeting with the crew about the site.
- Keep crews spread out. Work at least two tree lengths apart when felling trees.
- Identify and mark dead and leaning trees as hazards or eliminate them.

### Pay Attention

- Check trees for dead branches. Look up, look down, look all around.
- Do not turn your back on a falling tree.
- Plan an escape route.
- Keep track of where your co-workers are. Do not bunch up.
- Don't hurry. Don't compete with your co-workers.

## 2 Share Story

See back

## 3 Conversation questions

Ask 2 or 3

- **"What problems do you see in this story?"**
  - No training
  - Crew members not paying attention to each other
  - Supervisor allowing workers to work too close together
  - No stretcher available
- **"How could this injury have been prevented?"**
- **"Have any of you experienced anything like this? How can this type of injury affect you personally?"**
- **"Does anyone know what our procedures are if someone is injured on the job?"**

### Take Care of Yourself and Each Other

- Take rest breaks. We make more mistakes when we are tired.
- Watch out for each other. Communicate about hazards you see.

2

Share Story

Read aloud or share photo story

*"It was morning and we had been thinning trees for a couple of hours. There were workers in front of me and behind me. The worker next to me was not paying attention and didn't notice where I was. He cut a tree and it dropped on me. It hit me and I fell to the ground. My saw hit me in the chest and my foot was twisted.*

*I could not get up. Two workers had to help me. No stretcher was available. I was in a lot of pain. My boss said they should take me to the hospital. My co-workers thought that would be too expensive, but the boss explained that that's what workers' compensation is for. Not all bosses will do that. At the hospital, I found out my foot was broken, and I had some fractured ribs.*

*I wish my co-worker had been paying attention. You can't be thinking about other things. We need to get reminded about what to watch out for, how to stay focused.*

*It was a year ago, but it still hurts. I can't play ball and run with my kids."*



It was morning and we had been thinning trees for a couple of hours.



The worker next to me was not paying attention. He cut a tree and it dropped on me.



I can't walk. I think I broke my foot.



The hospital is going to be expensive!

It's ok. That's what the workers' compensation insurance is for.

My foot was broken, and I had some fractured ribs.



Pay attention to where your trees are going to fall. Be sure to work at least 2 tree lengths apart.



I wish my co-worker had been paying attention.

It was a year ago, but it still hurts. I can't play with my kids.

## How could this injury have been prevented?

### Be Prepared

- Assess the site before starting work.
- Hold a pre-work safety meeting with the crew about the site.
- Keep crews spread out. Work at least two tree lengths apart when felling trees.
- Identify and mark dead and leaning trees as hazards or eliminate them.

### Pay Attention

- Check trees for dead branches. Look up, look down, look all around.
- Do not turn your back on a falling tree.
- Plan an escape route.
- Keep track of where your co-workers are. Do not bunch up.
- Don't hurry. Don't compete with your co-workers.

### Take Care of Yourself and Each Other

- Take rest breaks. We make more mistakes when we are tired.
- Watch out for each other. Communicate about hazards you see.

December 2017

# FOREST WORKER SAFETY TALKS

## PLÁTICAS SOBRE SEGURIDAD PARA LOS TRABAJADORES FORESTALES



Available in Spanish / Disponible in English  
[http://deohs.washington.edu/pnash/forest\\_safety](http://deohs.washington.edu/pnash/forest_safety)

