

TREE-WORK FATAL INJURY FACTS

In New York, 25 workers died doing tree work or logging between 2002 and 2005. Below are real-life descriptions of workers who were killed on the job.

A logger was killed when he cut a support tree that was holding up a lodged tree. The lodged tree struck him.

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A tree service worker was electrocuted when his pruning tool touched a 7,200V power line.

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A tree service owner fell 100 feet to his death while trimming tree branches when the branch he was tied to snapped.

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A tree service worker was killed while chipping branches when he was caught and pulled into a wood chipper.



A logger was killed when the butt of a tree he was cutting kicked back and struck him in the face.

HOW CAN THESE ACCIDENTS BE PREVENTED?

- ✦ Always work in teams.
- ✦ Inspect work zones prior to any work to ensure they are free from hazards such as danger trees, hanging limbs, power lines, or uneven terrain.
- ✦ Plan felling directions, felling hinges, and escape paths.
- ✦ Check the condition of tree branches before climbing on them or tying off safety equipment.
- ✦ Inspect equipment before each shift and remove damaged equipment from service until repaired.
- ✦ Follow manufacturers' recommended procedures for safe operation, trouble shooting, and maintenance when working with machinery.
- ✦ Get proper training in the use of a chainsaw.

New York Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE)

The NY FACE program is supported by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Additional information can be obtained by contacting: Bureau of Occupational Health, 1-866-807-2130. Full FACE reports can be found at: www.nyhealth.gov/nysdoh/face/face.htm