

All fallers **MUST** have qualified assistance



What is qualified assistance?

The supervisor, employer/contractor, licensee or land owner must make sure that every faller has access to a person or people capable of effectively helping, advising or assisting them.

Fallers and buckers must have an effective means to summon qualified assistance.

A plan must be in place where the qualified assistance person/people know what is expected of them and be able to respond as needed.

When does a faller need qualified assistance?

Qualified assistance must be readily available to fallers in case of difficulty, emergency or injury, as per OHS Regulation 26.28.

A falling difficulty – no urgent action required e.g. a faller is unsure about how best to handle a hazard tree.

The faller has the opportunity to create a no-work zone until qualified assistance is available.

An emergency – urgent action required e.g. a faller is pinned under a log. Qualified assistance could mean machine assist if appropriate or someone who has the skills and PPE to immediately assist and buck him out.

An injury – must have basic first aid coverage readily available to all fallers within a surface travel time (walking) of not more than 10 minutes. OHS Regulation, section 3.18(2).

Bottomline: The supervisor, employer/contractor, licensee or land owner must be able to prove that they have provided the necessary, qualified assistance to comply with the regulation. Still not sure? Call a falling safety advisor at the BC Forest Safety Council at 1.877.741.1060 or call a safety officer at WorkSafeBC at 1.888.621.7233.