

# **FATALITY ALERT**

## **– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –**

**BCFSC #2022-01-24**

On January 24, 2022 in the Sunshine Coast area, a faller was fatally injured when the tree he was falling broke and he was struck by a piece of the tree.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by this incident.

This incident is still under investigation and details are still to be determined.

### **The following safety information should be reviewed to help prevent further serious incidents:**

1. Be vigilant and complete a thorough hazard assessment for each tree that is going to be felled. Anticipate what may go wrong and what controls can be put in place to protect yourself.
2. Serious incidents are often caused by danger trees or pieces of the danger tree coming back and hitting the faller. Always plan your work area to avoid brushing standing timber. Fully assess all danger trees to determine if they can safely be felled with directional control into an adequate opening to avoid brushing. Have appropriate escape trails and cover if available. Consider using qualified assistance or alternate falling methods.
3. 90% of falling incidents happen within 10 feet of the stump. When the tree starts to fall, move away on your escape trail and get out of the hazard zone. Always have a good escape route, with cover where possible. If clearing a minimum of 10 feet to a safe location is not possible, alternate falling methods must be used.
4. When falling danger trees, at minimum, two cleared escape trails are required, preferably to cover when available. Always monitor the danger tree or hazards while falling.
5. Regular check-ins with falling partners are critical to ensure that help is available if something goes wrong. This would include frequently shutting off your chainsaw and listening for your partner or radio check-ins scheduled every 20 to 30-minutes. It's important to have a response plan in place for a failure to respond to a check-in. Ensure access trails are well marked and cleared for qualified assistance to use if needed.