

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2022-04-25

On April 13th, 2022, a forestry worker was seriously injured while clearing brush along a road near Woss, BC. He was making falling cuts on an alder when it split and struck him. He was transported to hospital for treatment but unfortunately passed away on April 25th.

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

This is the second direct harvesting fatality of 2022.

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

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

1. Even small trees cause serious injuries and fatalities. It is critical to complete a thorough hazard assessment of all trees in order to anticipate how they will react and move when cut.
2. Alder and other hardwoods are prone to splitting and barber-chairing, making them a higher risk level of timber to fall. It is critical that workers are deemed competent and qualified before starting work.
3. Trees and logs are under tension or compression and can react unexpectedly when cut or disturbed. Where possible, plan alternate ways to complete the work so workers are not exposed to the hazard.
4. Ensure escape routes are established and tested for all falling and bucking activities. The escape route should provide cover where possible and should not be directly behind the cut, rather at a 45° angle away from the bucking cut or direction of fall.
5. Always seek qualified assistance when overcoming a bucking or falling difficulty and never work above your level of competence or qualification.
6. Refer to the Designated High-Risk Violations: Hand Falling or Bucking and the BC Faller Training Standard Info Flips for information on safe work procedures and the acceptable Standard for bucking and falling.