

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2026-09-29

On September 29th, 2026, a worker was fatally injured after being struck by a tree during a manual tree falling operation west of Williams Lake. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service is currently investigating this incident.

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

This incident is under investigation, and details are still to be determined. Contributing factors to the incident are not available during an ongoing investigation.

Consider the following safety points:

1. Workers must be outside of 2 tree lengths of an active falling area. Regulation allows for the following exceptions: qualified assistance, supervision and/or training.
2. Forestry operations often occur in challenging conditions due to weather, terrain or timber type. Adding a safety factor to your work (increased distance, time, etc.) reduces the risk of injury.
3. Worksite conditions can change quickly. Maintain situational awareness by assessing frequently and thinking about how your actions and decisions need to change to match the risks.
4. Manual tree falling is complex and high-risk work; certified fallers must assess and manage their worksites to ensure each tree comes down in a controlled manner.
[Resources exist to aid fallers and falling supervisors in their work.](#)
5. Being able to communicate with other workers and fallers is critical when difficulties or emergencies occur. Establish communication and check-in procedures before starting work.
6. Forestry work sites are often in remote locations, which should be considered in all safety related decisions. Following regulations is just meeting the minimum requirements. Assess your worksites and decide what additional safety equipment and processes need to be in place.