

# **FATALITY ALERT**

## **– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –**

BCFSC #2018-10-06

On October 6th, 2018 a faller was fatally injured when he was struck by a tree. This incident happened in the Columbia Valley region of BC.

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

**While this incident is still under investigation and details are still to be determined, please review the following safety information:**

- 1) Recent falling fatalities have shown a trend of danger trees or pieces of them coming back and hitting fallers. Avoid brushing standing timber when falling and always fall your danger trees progressively with your falling face to avoid this.
- 2) Overhead hazards and rot indicators can be difficult to see. Take the time to do an assessment of each tree and look for hazards like limb tied trees and dead tops.
- 3) Most falling incidents happen within 10 feet of the stump. When the tree starts to fall, move away on your escape path and get out of this high hazard zone. Always have a good escape route, with cover where possible.
- 4) Many falling incidents are the result of chain reactions. The tree being felled can cause unexpected movement in nearby trees, logs, rootwads or rocks. As part of the hazard assessment, anticipate what chain reactions may occur.
- 5) Best practices for falling include having two, cleared escape trails and to always watch the danger tree or hazards while falling.

Seven fallers with 280 years of experience and 0 injuries, advise:

1. Stay focused, head in the game. If anything is off, stop and walk away
2. Plan well; site assessment, tree by tree
3. Always keep your eye on the tree; have a getaway trail; and a Plan B
4. Learn the basics and learn them well
5. Only use good equipment; sharp chain, no worn out bars
6. Ask for a second opinion; use machine assist or blast
7. Be fit for work; well rested, clear mind, sober, good nutrition and hydration

### **Resources:**

1) Safety Alert – Danger trees hitting standing timber  
<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2864>

2) Danger Tree Assessment Video from SAFER  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZX52D49QBg>

3) To order the 7 Fallers, 280 Years of Experience, 0 injuries poster with the 7 tips  
[http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/ps\\_InjuryPreventionResourceOrderForm.pdf](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/ps_InjuryPreventionResourceOrderForm.pdf)