

SAFETY ALERT

Faller Slip and Fall on Steep Ground

Incident Date: July 29, 2019

Location: Coastal Woodlands

Incident Type: Slip, Trip and Fall

Job Position: Hand Faller



Summary:

A Faller had just wedged over a cedar, cleared the stump and was returning to get his saw. He bent down to pick up the saw, stepped in an unexpected hole, which caused a forward fall. Faller was not able to stop the fall by grabbing brush and he tumbled 40+ feet down an 80%+ slope. He was stopped by trees and brush at the base of the slope. The ground was rocky and covered in Salal.

Worker sustained a right arm fracture and a rib fracture. Very fortunate as injuries could have been much worse.

Key Learnings and Recommendations:

- While on steep terrain, ensure solid foot placement before attempting other tasks.
- Caulks must be sharp when walking in the woods. Supervisors need to check.
- Faller escape routes and access/egress trails must be planned and properly cleared of brush and other obstacles.
- If unforeseen conditions are encountered, stop work, re-assess and seek advice.
- Fallers/Falling Supervisors need to walk quarters ahead of time and identify hazards including terrain.
- Supervisors to ensure fallers are fit-for-work before the start of each shift.
- WorksafeBC OHSR 8.11(4) states that chin straps or other effective means of retention must be used on safety headgear when workers are climbing or working from a height exceeding 3 m (10 ft), or are exposed to high winds or other conditions that may cause loss of headgear.

For more information on this alert, please contact:

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