

STRUCK BY OVERHEAD HAZARD

Incident Date: October 19, 2020

Location: Coastal Woodlands

Incident Type: Lost Time

Job Position: Faller



Summary:

On October 19th, 2020, a Faller was overcoming a limb tied cedar tree hazard. Faller was using an alder to push the cedar tree hazard over. As jackpot started to go over, the faller took steps back to get into the clear. The faller kept a close eye on the jackpot as it fell over but did not look up and assess for overhead hazards. A poorly rooted hemlock was dislodged. Faller was struck on hardhat by hemlock stem that came out of tree line below road reconstruction surface. Hemlock stem was 13cm DBH and 22.1 meters in length. Faller was heli lifted to hospital for further medical assessment. It was found after CT scan the faller had sustained a fracture to his C3 vertebra.

Key Learnings and Recommendations:

- Develop falling plan for all Right of Way projects
- Eliminate the risk- use mechanical means to fall timber whenever possible
- Clear stump a minimum of 10 feet or seek cover
- Escape trails must be tested. Moving 10' in the wrong direction does not work
- Maintain a close watch for all hazards, observe canopy while moving down safety trail
- Do not let your guard down when falling small diameter trees and assessing hazards within a small diameter 2nd growth stand

For more information on this alert, please contact:

Gary Bauer, Coastal Woodlands Operations
Gary.Bauer@interfor.com

