



INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Metal embedded in trees

Date: August 2024

Details: A tree was recently discovered with a barbed wire fence absorbed into it. Barbed wire and other metal products attached to or inserted into a tree are extremely dangerous to logging and wood manufacturing workers and equipment.

Ranching and Forestry co-exist in many regions of BC. Ranchers need fences to control cattle movement. However, the tree in the photo exemplifies the danger posed when living trees are used as anchor points for wire fencing.

Embedded wire in trees poses several significant dangers to forestry workers:

Injury Risk - Embedded wire can cause chainsaws to kick back, leading to severe injuries. The sudden jolt can result in loss of control over the equipment.

Equipment Damage - Chainsaws and other sawmill equipment can be damaged when they come into contact with embedded metal. This not only increases maintenance costs but also poses a risk of equipment failure during critical operations.

Hidden Hazards - Embedded wires and other metallic items are often not visible from the outside, making it difficult for workers to anticipate and avoid them. This hidden danger can lead to unexpected incidents.

Tree Health - Embedded wire can cause structural weaknesses in trees, making them more prone to breaking or falling unexpectedly. This increases the risk for workers who are climbing or working near these trees.

It is crucial to mark/flag and otherwise report any trees that are found to have attached or embedded foreign items, to eliminate a danger to workers in all phases of forestry.



To share a safety alert click [here](#)



BC Forest Safety

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