



Zero Fatalities
Zero Lost Time
Zero Road/Speed Incidents
Zero Environmental Incidents
Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 24

Date: 02 – 15 October 2019

Focus Group: Tree Fellers

Topic: Felling Trees in High Winds

Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: October was the third windiest month in New Zealand in eighteen years prompting the MetService to issue 41 severe wind warnings! Not surprisingly, PF Olsen has received several incident reports where tree fellers have, in such windy conditions, lost control of trees resulting in dangerous hang-ups, damaged chainsaws and other close calls.

Injury Details: No injuries as such, however, some reports include property damage.

Risk Awareness: Manual tree felling is a [critical risk activity](#) claiming 55% of the recent forest industry fatalities. Windy conditions only exacerbate the risk and make it more likely that fellers will experience one or more of the seven harms leading to extreme harm or fatality.

Safe Behaviours: Apart from high-level 'Felling Area Risk Assessments', tree fellers and observers need to be fully conversant with the '[Five-Step Felling Plan](#)', the '[Seven Harms](#)' and the impact of '[Adverse Events](#)'. Site Supervisors (who have the principal duty) must also monitor conditions and ensure an appropriate response to worsening weather. In regard to high winds it is important to base our responses on a proven system such as the [Beaufort Guidelines and Decision Support Tool](#).

For Site Manager use (print this document and then complete):

This safety alert is relevant to my site? Yes or No (circle one). If yes, complete the following actions:

1. This safety alert has been discussed with employees and operators
2. I have placed this safety alert on the site notice board or in the safety file

Site Manager: _____
(signature)

Date: / /