

# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 53

<b>Date:</b> December 2022	<b>Focus Group:</b> Harvesting Operations
<b>Topic:</b> Felling Area Risk Assessments	<b>Issued by:</b> Craig Fisher

**Background and Incident:** A tree feller was struck by a rotten spar, which fell uphill after being disturbed by shockwaves when a felled stem hit the ground. In another incident, a tree feller was pushed back after cutting a windthrown stem under tension.

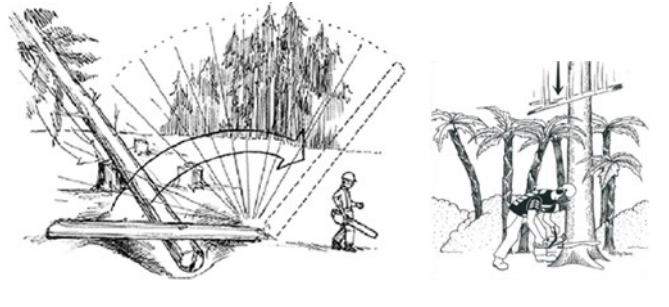
**Injury Details:** The first tree feller was flown to a hospital where scans revealed no physical injuries although concussion was detected (LTI). The other feller was unharmed, however, both were fortunate to not sustain more serious injuries.

**Risk Awareness:** Manual tree felling is a [particular risk](#) where a large and/or heavy object (the tree) may strike or fall upon a worker causing severe injury or death.

**Safe Behaviours:** There are no shortcuts to safe and productive felling – tree fellers must [know the 7 harms](#) and follow the [5-step felling plan](#). In our PF Olsen operations, a [Safetree Certified](#) tree feller must be present to work alone or to supervise a trainee and only then after completing a [Felling Area Risk Assessment](#) (FARA). A FARA ensures that the risks (dangerous trees, windthrow, standing dead trees and spars etc.) are properly mitigated. If the risks cannot be reduced e.g. by using a machine to clean up windthrow, then a [two-person felling team](#) (one observing or assisting) is required.

To ensure best practice and optimal safety, Contractors are also required to complete SBOs using, for example, external experts (trainers) – see the [matrix](#) for frequencies.

Wherever practicable, prioritise mechanised felling over manual felling.

<p><b>For Site Manager:</b></p> <p>Print and complete the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss with employees/operators: <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Place on site notice board or in file: <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ol> <p><b>Site Manager:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> / / (initials)</p>	
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