

Southern WV Accident Alert

A tree cutter with five (5) years experience was fatally injured while clear cutting trees for a surface mining operation. After completing his last cut in an attempt to fell a tree, the victim noticed that the tree was leaning slightly in the direction of a standing tree, but had stopped falling. Upon realizing that the cut tree could fall into the nearby tree and become lodged, he decided to cut the nearby tree first. While in the process of cutting the nearby tree, the cut tree fell striking the victim causing fatal injuries.



Preventive Practices:

- ✓ An evaluation of each step in the work process for potential hazards should be conducted before starting work.
- ✓ Before felling is started, the tree cutter shall plan and clear a retreat path.
- ✓ Felling shall be done uphill from, or on the same level as, previously felled trees on any slope where rolling or sliding of trees or logs is reasonably foreseeable.
- ✓ No work shall be conducted within two (2) tree lengths of the danger tree, including trees that have been cut but have not fallen.
- ✓ Danger trees should be felled or removed using mechanical means only.

For additional information:

<http://mshanet.msha.gov/GeneralRef/30CFR.pdf>

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13420



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