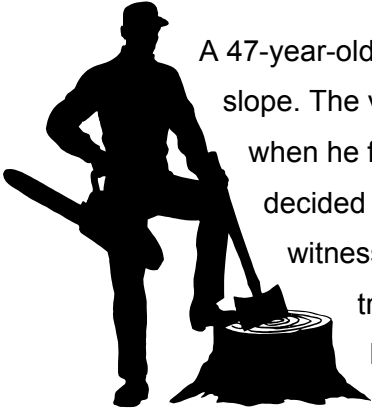


July 1992

# ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services  
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS  
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

## Tree Faller Crushed by Dislodged Tree



A 47-year-old male tree faller (the victim) was felling trees on a mountainside with a 50 percent slope. The victim was opening a cutting strip approximately 150 feet above a logging road when he felled a hemlock tree that became lodged against another hemlock. The victim decided to clear the lodged tree by cutting and felling the supporting tree. There were no witnesses to the incident, but evidence suggests that when the victim cut the supporting tree, it carried the lodged tree into his intended escape path. Presumably, during his attempt to move away from the falling support tree, the victim tripped in a small hole and fell to the ground. The lodged tree fell on him, striking him on the head and shoulder, fatally crushing him. NIOSH investigators concluded that, in order to prevent future similar occurrences, employers should:

- **ensure that tree fallers dislodge trees according to safe methods specified in logging industry standards**
- **ensure that tree fallers receive adequate training in safe work procedures**
- **designate a company safety manager to conduct regular safety inspections**
- **designate a person to check on the safety of lone or isolated fallers and buckers at regular intervals**
- **ensure that worker safety has been addressed in the planning process of logging operations.**

**To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:**

[http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation\\_injury](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury)

or

**Call or fax your request to:**

**907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)**

**To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to [djilly@health.state.ak.us](mailto:djilly@health.state.ak.us)**