



# Alaska FACE Facts

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

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## Logger killed when struck by a dislodged limb

A 37-year old male logger was killed by a limb that fell from a tree. The logger (the victim) and his partner were working separately in marked stands of trees within voice and visual contact of each other. The victim was attempting to fell the first of two trees. While making the backcut on the first tree, a limb from the canopy directly above him became dislodged. The limb fell and struck his head. When the victim failed to return to the truck on the access road, the victim's partner walked back to the victim's last location. The victim was found at the foot of a felled tree. A large limb was near his body, and his hard hat had a large dent near the front right side which corresponded to bruising and swelling on the victim's head and face. Finding no pulse or signs of breathing, the victim's partner called to another co-worker waiting near the truck on the access road. The co-worker started CPR, however the victim remained unresponsive. The victim's partner went back to the road and notified a road crew supervisor who radioed the log yard for assistance. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- **Ensure that timber cutters and cutting supervisors evaluate trees and surrounding areas so that potential hazards can be identified and control measures implemented;**
- **Ensure that timber cutters are aware of the extreme hazard of cutting trees potentially tied together and use appropriate control measures;**
- **Ensure that all workers are trained in first aid and CPR.**



**For more information or  
a copy of this FACE report, contact the  
Occupational Injury Prevention Office  
(907) 269-8000  
or visit our website**

<http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/programs/injury>