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SAFETY ALERT

09-S-12

LOGGER'S FOOT PINNED DURING LOG BUCKING

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www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/09-s-12.html

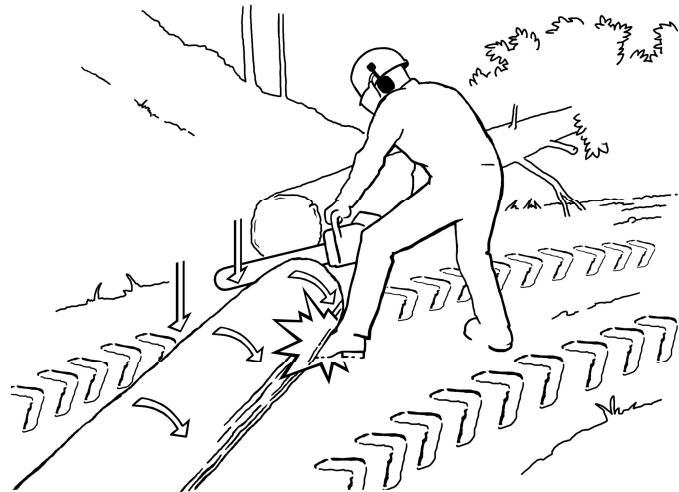
BACKGROUND: On a cool, wet, summer day in the Appalachians, a logging contractor was skidding trees that he had felled on steep ground down to the skid road to provide an unobstructed, level area to trim and buck them.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The 56-year-old contractor had over 20 years of experience logging. He had been fully trained in tree felling and trimming techniques. He was using all appropriate personal protective equipment, and he had no history of previous injuries.

UNSAFE ACT: The logger began bucking a 14-inch-dbh hickory on the skid road just outside of the landing area. He had positioned himself on the lower side of the tree.

ACCIDENT: As he completed the cut through the wood, the log fell down and rolled toward the logger. The log immediately pinned his foot to the ground, preventing him from moving out of the way. He struggled to free his foot, but was unable to do so.

The logger called for help to the other timber cutter working on the hill. The timber cutter arrived and used his chain saw to cut a three-foot section of wood out of the tree, freeing the logger's foot.



INJURY: The logger was wearing steel-toed, chain saw cut-resistant boots. The steel-toed boot did not collapse under the pressure of the log, and the contractor's toes were not broken. His arch and ankle swelled that night but were back to normal in 2 days.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION: Always trim and top trees from the safe side of the log. Look at all factors that might contribute to an unsafe situation. Practice using an offset cut when topping a tree to keep the tree from releasing from the top all at once. Let the skidder pull the main stem away from the top, and make sure you are not too close. Wear steel-toed boots when working around heavy equipment or logs. Maintain visual or audible contact with at least one other crew member—it really helped the victim in this incident!

Reviewed by:

Rick Meyer

Appalachian/Southwide Region Manager

Please follow equipment manufacturers' recommendations for safe operation and maintenance procedures.