

Incident Alert



Incident Title:

Vegetation worker injured during tree felling

Date of Incident:

Monday 14 March, 2016

Incident Description and Details:

A vegetation lines crew were undertaking tree felling work, widening a corridor below transmission lines.

The worksite was in dense, native bush with vines entwined between trees, in the forest canopy and in vegetation on the forest floor.

As a tree fell (as planned) a vine (which wasn't visible to the vegetation employee) pulled up and caught the operator, knocking him to the ground. He was struck on the side of the leg by the base of the felled tree.

The injured person was assessed for injury and attended at A&E. He underwent x-rays and was subsequently diagnosed with a soft tissue injury, ligament and nerve damage to his right leg and placed in a splint.

An investigation is underway.

Recommendations / Lessons:

- The vines were identified as a hazard on the Job Start and controls (such as cutting all visible vines before undertaking a fell) were in place. It is important to remember to maintain high awareness of your surroundings, especially when working in potentially unpredictable locations.
- The work-party was in constant communication with each other during felling operations which meant that the injured party received immediate assistance from his team mate.

Contact Person:

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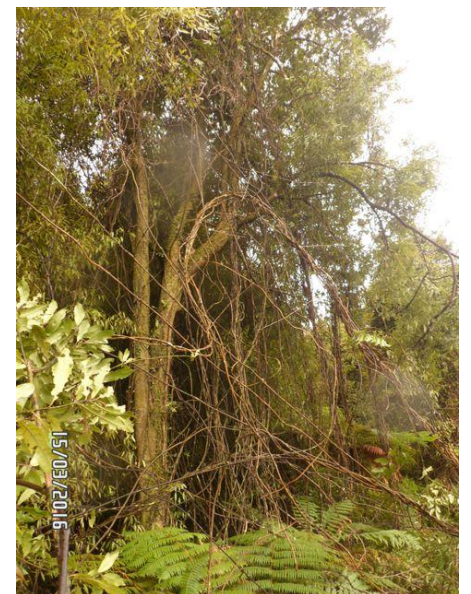
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Re-enactment of the position the injured worker fell.



Photograph showing the trees requiring felling



The base of the felled tree (which struck the worker).