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INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY FATALITY

- Issued by HSE's Agricultural Sector to Farm Safety Partnership, FISA and AIAC members, to assist timely promotion of key health and safety messages.
- The details are based on initial notification and media coverage and do not fully reflect the detailed circumstances of the incident. The death has been treated as work related BUT this will be subject to further assessment.
- The links to existing H&S guidance are to help recipients to promote health and safety and should not be taken to imply details of cause of the incident.

Incident summary as notified to HSE or reported in the media

Date of incident	08/12/18
Geographic area	London
General nature of incident	Fall from height (tree)

Brief details of incident

Initial notification is that a self-employed tree surgeon was killed after falling from height while pruning trees.

Links to relevant published guidance (HSE and Partnership publications)

Guidance for tree surgeons can be found on HSE's Tree Work website, see [Working at height](#) and in the free download from the Arboricultural Association, [Work at height planning and decision making](#).

Key messages for FSP/AIAC members to promote

- Falls from height are the biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the most common causes of major injuries.
- Within arboriculture falls from height remain common and they often result in death or major spinal injury.
- The proportion of people killed doing tree work is higher than almost any other occupation.
- Tree workers must be adequately trained and their competence checked.
- Avoid the need to work at height when it is reasonably practicable to do so, for example by using extending equipment to prune from the ground.
- If work has to be done at height, use MEWPs or similar platforms that prevent a fall through collective protective measures.
- To comply with the law, aerial tree work with ropes should only be undertaken once it has been demonstrated that the alternatives are not reasonably practicable.

Link to known media report - [Evening Standard](#)