

fountains



SAFETY ALERT!



POOR WORK PRACTICE RESULTS IN SERIOUS INJURY

A Utility Arborist suffered a fractured tibia when a branch he was pruning dropped suddenly and struck his left leg. He was stood on the ground completing a felling cut with a chainsaw fitted with a 15 inch bar.

The tree work was part of planned Overhead Electric Line vegetation management however the electrical risks were not a factor.

Although still under investigation the photos below give some information about the event.

The use of the chainsaw well over shoulder height, stretching upwards produced a poor quality sink cut and a sloping directional felling cut, loss of control during the felling cut severed the retaining hinge. The individual did not have time to move into the escape route.

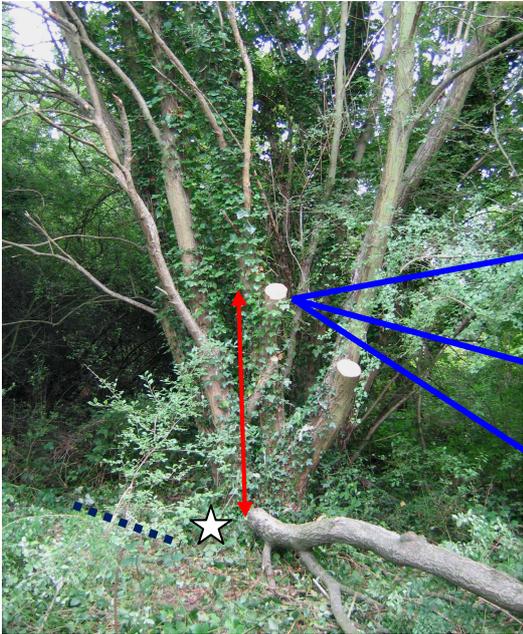
SAFETY RULES ARE IN PLACE BECAUSE THEY PREVENT INJURY

TAKING SHORTCUTS CAN NEVER BE SAFE

**IF THERE IS A PROBLEM COMPLETING WORK SAFELY,
STOP WORK - DISCUSS THE OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE WORK METHODS**

Discuss this event. Do you ever take shortcuts? – if Yes – WHY!

What alternative work methods can you see that would have avoided this event?

		 <p>A sloping felling cut with the hinge cut through – 18cms diameter.</p> 
<p><i>The multi-stemmed Willow. The branch lying on the ground was removed accurately and safely. The remaining pruned section can be seen above the branch on the right.</i></p> <p><i>The other branch was felled at a height of 2m (red arrowed line). The operative was stood on the ground (marked by the white star) and after being struck fell backwards when he tried to move (marked by black dotted line).</i></p>	<p><i>The felled 10m branch – the butt section struck the operative's lower left leg. It had to be moved to allow paramedics access to treat the injured operative.</i></p>	