

**INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY FATALITY**

- This notification is 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 below are based on initial notification and media coverage and do not fully reflect the detailed circumstances of the incident.
- The links to existing H&S guidance are intended to help recipients to promote health and safety and should not be taken to imply anything specific about the circumstances of the incident.
- Recipients are asked to feedback a summary of action they have taken within 2 weeks of receipt of this notification.

<b>Notification number:</b>	2017/04
<b>Release date of fatal alert:</b>	03 February 2017
<b>HSE Sector contact for further details:</b>	Andrew Turner ( <a href="mailto:andrew.turner@hse.gov.uk">andrew.turner@hse.gov.uk</a> )
<b>Cleared for release by head of Sector on:</b>	02 February 2017
<b>Feedback to be provided to HSE by:</b>	17 February 2017
<b>Please send feedback to:</b>	<a href="mailto:nick.sangha@hse.gov.uk">nick.sangha@hse.gov.uk</a>
<b>Action required by FSP/AIAC members</b>	
To disseminate relevant safety messages amongst your membership and your other industry contacts to influence those that engage in tree work, either professionally in forests or as an occasional feature of their business. We should aim to promote the guidance on managing the risks involved in tree work remembering that from time-to-time this work is also carried out on estates, farms, domestic premises and other locations.	

**Incident summary as notified to HSE or reported in the media**

<b>Age of person killed</b>	<16 <input type="checkbox"/>	25–34 <input type="checkbox"/>	45–54 <input type="checkbox"/>	65 and over <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>(mark age range)</b>	16-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	35-44 <input type="checkbox"/>	55-64 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age not known <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Employment status:</b>	Self-employed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Employee	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Member of public	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Not yet known	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Date of incident</b>	31 January 2017			
<b>Geographic area</b>	Scottish Borders			
<b>General nature of incident</b>	Struck by tree			

**Brief details of incident**

Initial notification is that a worker was killed when he was hit by a tree during a felling operation.

**Links to relevant published guidance (HSE and Partnership publications)**

Further guidance can be found on the [Tree work health and safety](#) and [forestry operations](#) web pages. The Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA) has also produced [Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry](#) which is available on the [\(FISA\) website](#). [FISA 302 Basic chainsaw felling and manual takedown](#) is also relevant.

**Key messages for FSP/AIAC members to promote**

Being struck by trees and tree branches during felling and tree work is a significant cause of death and major injury in forestry and tree work and is not uncommon in the wider agricultural industry.

- Anyone involved in felling or other tree work must be suitably trained and competent for the tasks they are undertaking
- Felling a tree is a one-person operation and no other person should be within a distance equal to twice the length of the tree being felled or directly below on steep slopes.
- Communicating safety information to everybody on a forestry site, including visitors, is an important part of managing health and safety.
- Everybody needs be clear on their roles and responsibilities.

**Link to known media report**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-38826274>

**Feedback/evaluation** *(proposed action taken by stakeholders)*