



## Safety Alert

January 2019

### HSE - Initial notification of two tree / chainsaw fatal incidents

**November 2018** - A man was killed on a farm when he was trapped by a branch he was removing from a tree.

**Key messages:**

Being struck by a tree, or tree branches, during felling and or other work on a tree is a significant cause of death and major injury in forestry and other land-based industries.

Tree work is common in the wider agricultural industry and the risks need to be managed.

- Anyone involved in tree 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, including visitors, is an important part of managing health and safety.
- Everybody needs be clear on their roles and responsibilities

Equipment including saws, ropes and harnesses and PPE must be in good condition and well maintained.

**August 2018** - A man was killed when cutting a hedge with a chainsaw.

**Key messages:**

Chainsaws can cause death or serious injury if the operator comes into contact with the moving blade. The chainsaw must be used for the purposes it was designed for. Anyone involved in using chainsaws must be suitably trained and competent for the tasks they are undertaking. Users should also wear appropriate chainsaw protective clothing.

Anyone working with chainsaws needs to be trained in emergency first aid and carry an appropriate first aid kit. They must be aware of how to control major bleeding and deal with crush injuries.

Users also need to be reasonably fit, both physically and mentally, if they are to use a chainsaw safely.

Equipment, including saws, ropes and harnesses and PPE must be in good condition and well maintained.

Think Safe; Stay Safe