

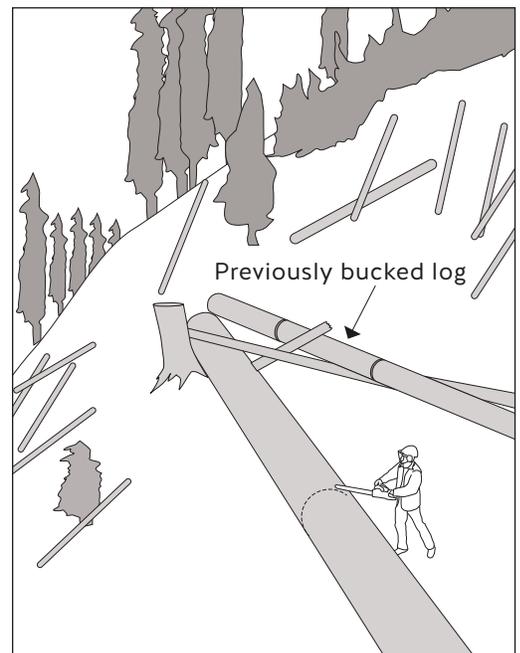
Bucked log rolls down slope, kills young worker

A young worker was bucking a log with his back against a steep bank. The middle of the log was suspended above the ground at about chest height. One end of the log was caught among other logs lying on the slope above and behind the young worker. These logs included one that the young worker had already bucked. As he was finishing his first cut on the suspended log, the two pieces dropped, causing the uphill logs to shift. The uphill log that the young worker had previously bucked rolled down the hill. It struck his back, pinning him against the log he had just cut. He died from his injuries.

The young worker's regular duties were to measure and buck logs that other workers had already placed in a safe position on the nearby road or other flat area. However, he decided to buck the suspended log, which hadn't yet been moved to a safe location. The young worker did not have the training or experience needed to assess and identify the hazards associated with bucking the suspended log.

Safe work practices:

- Conduct a thorough bucking assessment and address any identified risks before bucking. Follow the assessment procedures provided in the BC Faller Training Standard.
- Provide and enforce written safe work procedures for bucking. They should include the following:
 - Buck logs only when they are in a safe position. If a log is not in safe position, wait until it is moved.
 - Do not buck below previously bucked logs.
 - Establish an escape route before bucking.
- Ensure that only qualified workers buck logs.
- Ensure that young workers receive workplace-specific training and orientation before they start work. Inform them about potential hazards and instruct them in procedures for dealing with those hazards.
- Provide workers with the information, instruction, training, and supervision needed to ensure their safety.



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