**#33: Struck by – Inspection #1108333**

A **42 year old male** employee was fatally injured when struck by a tree. On the day of the incident, the victim was overseeing line clearance operations that consisted of brush removal and tree felling. Shortly after lunch, the victim and a few other employees began felling trees using the rope and crank method. This method requires a rope to be secured to a nearby anchor point, and to the tree that is going to be cut. A come along is attached to the rope, and pulls the tree in the desired predetermined direction once the back cut is made. An employee made the notch, and back cut a tree 116 feet tall, as the tree was falling it struck another tree 122 feet tall, causing it to up-root, and fall toward the victim. The uprooted tree struck the victim in the head, and knocked him to the ground. During the investigation it was determined that the victim was positioned only 120 feet from the initial felling tree.

## Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

## Citation 1 Item 1

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| TCA 50-3-105(1) | Each employer did not furnish to each of its employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees. In that two employees, who were involved in a manual tree felling operation, were exposed to a struck-by hazard due to their position being less than 1.5 tree lengths away from the tree being felled.<br><br>ANSI Z133 – 2012 Sec. G.8.5.10 which states "Ground workers handling taglines used during manual tree felling shall be outside of the striking distance of the tree, preferably 1.5 times the height of the tree away, or further when practicable." |

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Photo 1 of 2 – Photo of the tree that struck another tree that uprooted and struck the victim.

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Photo 2 of 2 – The orange cone is where the victim was struck by the top of the uprooted tree.