

4 Fall off bluff – Inspection #1203511

A **34 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell approximately 150 feet off a bluff. On the day of the incident, the victim, a Grounds-man, and a Crew Lead, were cutting trees along the edge of a bluff with chainsaws. The Crew Lead was working on the northeast corner edge of the bluff and the victim was working just southwest of him, approximately five to eight feet apart. The Crew Lead felled a tree that became lodged in a lower tree along the bluff edge. The victim proceeded to cut the lower tree, when the upper tree dislodged striking the victim across the back, and then rolling off the bluff. The victim, unconscious, rolled and slid down the edge of the bluff and over the bluff face. Fall protection or fall prevention was not provided on site.

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

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>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.</p> <p>In that an employee was fatally injured by being struck by a danger tree while cutting another tree. Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard is to use mechanical means to remove a danger tree which would keep employees away from the hazard area.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>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.</p> <p>In that an employee was fatally injured by not wearing fall protection, while performing tree removal near the edge of a 150 foot cliff, while working a steep bluff.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 1

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(ii)	<p>The energy control procedures did not clearly and specifically outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules, and techniques to be utilized for the control of hazardous energy, including, but not limited to items (a) through (d) of this section.</p> <p>In that machine specific procedures had not been developed for lockout/tag-out for employees performing service/maintenance of equipment.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 3a

29 CFR 1910.132(a)	<p>Protective equipment was not used when necessary whenever hazards capable of causing injury and impairment were encountered.</p> <p>In that two employees were using chainsaws to cut down trees while not wearing chain saw resistant leg protection exposing them to serious bodily injury in the event of making contact with the saw.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 3b

29 CFR 1910.132(a)(1)	<p>The employer did not ensure that each affected employee wear a protective helmet when working in areas where there is a potential for injury to the head from falling objects.</p> <p>In that two employees were using chainsaws to cut down trees while not wearing head protection exposing them to potential falling objects such as limbs and branches.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 1

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03.03(27)(a)	<p>The log for all work-related injuries and illnesses (OSHA Form 300), and/or the summary of work-related injuries and illnesses, (OSHA Form 300A), and/or the injury and illness incident report (OSHA Form 301) or equivalent forms were not maintained by the establishment.</p> <p>In that the OSHA 300A summary was not maintained for 2014.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 2a

29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1)	<p>The employer did not develop, implement, and/or maintain at the workplace a written hazard communication program which describes how the criteria specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f), (g), and (h) will be met.</p> <p>In that no written hazard communication program was in place at the facility describing how containers would be labeled, the safety data sheets maintain, and how the employees would be trained on the hazardous chemicals that were used in the facility such as the gasoline, diesel fuel, and various types of oils and lubricants being used on a daily basis.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 2b

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1)	<p>Employees were not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard that the employees had not been previously trained about was introduced into their work area.</p> <p>In that no training was given to the new-hire employees on hazard communication, safety data sheets, or the hazards associated with the chemical such as gasoline, diesel fuel and various types of oils and lubricants that they were exposed to through the course of their work, or what protective measures were necessary to protect the employee from the hazards associated with the chemicals.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1: The stump highlighted by the red circle was the first tree that was cut. The yellow circle indicates where the victim was cutting the lower tree.