



Today's discussion is from the  
Hazard Tree Category.

## HAZARD TREE FELLING – HANG-UPS

- For decades, hazard trees have been associated with numerous deaths of workers assigned fire operations and project work. Incidents involving hazard trees are included in the top 5 life threats to wildland firefighters along with wildfire entrapment and motor vehicle accidents. In private industry, logging is recognized as the most dangerous occupation in the nation, and many associated fatalities involve felling hazard trees. Felling a hung-up hazard tree is a particularly hazardous and complex task.



- Sawyers are to be reminded on how vital it is to constantly apply and maintain situational awareness and assess risks, particularly when faced with problem of a **hang-up** hazard tree.
- In most cases, safely felling a hang-up requires extreme caution and expertise due to characteristic danger and complexity. The following are some topics experienced sawyers should review during 6 minutes for safety/tailgate safety discussions and cover in training modules specifically designed to address felling hang-up hazard trees:
  - Cut/No Cut (walk-a-way) criteria
  - Risk Assessment
  - Situational Awareness Checklist
  - Secure Felling Area
  - No Work Zones (NWZ)
  - Blasting option
  - Equipment/cable option
  - Role/responsibility of swamper/lookout
  - Escape routes
  - Pushing/driver tree opportunity
  - Felling trees tied together
  - Sidewinder potential
  - Hazards of obscured view of top
  - Need to keep looking up
  - Weak/spiked tops, limb location/condition/density, and hidden defect/rot
  - Prescribed step down (fence post/wafer) cutting techniques
  - Rope Technique

References:

[Hazard Tree Safety Web Page](#)

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Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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