



Hazardous trees in plantations.

July 2016 **The facts:**

SAFETY ALERT
PF Olsen Australia staff and contractors can work in hazardous environments. One such environment has been highlighted in the Green Triangle region: native trees scattered throughout our plantations pose as falling objects hazard.

The hazard posed by these trees is heightened after a plantation has been harvested, as these big old trees have now been opened up and exposed to the elements.

These trees present an increased risk of dropping limbs or the trees falling.

The most common tree-related hazards:

Tree related hazards can include hanging limbs, dead limbs or hollows in limbs or trunks. Keep in mind all trees above head height are to be considered potentially hazardous and warrant assessment of hazards.

Careful assessment should be undertaken from a distance before approaching a hazardous tree. A minimum of two tree lengths is to be adhered to as a minimum safety work zone while assessing a tree for hazards.

NOTE: Always be mindful that the various hazards posed by trees can sometimes be easily detected, but others can be difficult, if not impossible, to detect from a visual assessment.

Trees can be particularly prone to dropping a limb or falling when they are under stress. Tree stress can be caused by:

- High wind
- Extreme temperatures or sudden changes in temperature
- Drought
- Fire
- Compaction
- Flood

Significant factors contributing to tree and limb fall include:

Tree lean – A tree with a 10 degree lean will require 100 times the strength of holding wood to stay upright than a near vertical tree.

Wind –The load weight on the base of a tree increases 42.5 times when the wind speed increases from 10 km/hr to 60 km/hr. Wind speed also greatly increases the likelihood of limbs falling as the trees and limbs rub together causing limb fall.

Alignment of wind direction and tree lean - A tree with a 10 degree lean and a 60 km/hr wind in the same direction has nearly 250 times force on the base of the tree than a vertical tree in still conditions.

The role you play:

You must...

Ensure that you maintain safety work zones of at least two tree lengths around hazardous trees.

Be aware...

Trees and limbs may fall unpredictably. Being under or near trees may be dangerous and could cause injury. Trees can drop limbs, or entire trees can fall, without warning and there is no way of determining when.

For further documentation on this issue please contact your PFO supervisor.

Note: This Notice will be added to the next safety audit/field check. They will be looking for evidence that this information has been passed onto all the relevant people within your organisation via notices and/or safety/toolbox meetings, and that it has been recorded and is being implemented.

The information in this Notice should be passed onto all the relevant people within your organization via notices and/or safety/toolbox meetings, and be recorded. This Meeting Report can be used to document your meeting and filed for later reference.

SAFETY MEETING REPORT

Date: _____ Company: _____

Topic(s) Discussed: _____

Names of employees attending:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Conducted by: _____

Signed: _____

Comments / Recommendations:

