



Notification number: 2024/01
B1 clearance date: 25 April 2024
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Health and Safety
Executive

Initial Notification of a Forestry/Arboriculture Fatality

Issued by HSE's Agricultural Sector to the Arboriculture & Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG); to assist with timely promotion of key health and safety messages.

The details are based on initial notification and media coverage and do not fully reflect the detailed circumstances of the incident. The death has been treated as work related BUT this will be subject to further assessment.

The links to existing H&S guidance are to help recipients promote health and safety and should not be taken to imply any detail about the cause of the incident.

Incident summary as notified to HSE or reported in the media	
Date of incident	12/4/2024
Geographic area	Heathfield, East Sussex
General nature of incident	Struck by an object
Employment Status	Self employed
Brief details of incident	
Initial notification is that a person was crushed whilst unloading tree trunks from a forwarder trailer.	
Links to relevant published guidance (HSE and Partnership publications)	
Extraction by Forwarder - FISA 503 Timber Haulage – FISA 706 Using machines safely - Agriculture - HSE	
Key messages for members to promote	
Loading and unloading forwarder trailers can kill or seriously injure people at work or passers-by if not done safely. Ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People are kept out of the work area when loading and unloading timber.• Loading and unloading operations are carried out by trained and competent persons.• Machinery and equipment is suitable for the task and is well-maintained.• Any maintenance is carried out safely in accordance with the manufacturer's handbook. Engine off, all power isolated and any stored energy is released.• Ensure that the timber is safely stacked on the trailer and properly secured. The load restraint system must be sufficient for the material carried and take account of product length, product weight etc. Do not load above the headboard or above stanchions and pins.• People understand the increased risks of operating in a remote site environment and know what to do in the event of emergency.	
Link to known media report - None	