

**Accidental Injury & Fatality Summary:
Investigations Relevant to SIC Code 0783**

as reported through U.S. Department of Labor (OSHA)
Integrated Management Information System (IMIS)
01-01-2007 to 12/31/2007

In keeping with the specific occupational health & safety interests of the OSHA & Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Alliance, this data is specifically relevant to SIC Code 0783: Ornamental Shrub and Tree Services.

The following summary was compiled from OSHA's IMIS reporting system and encompasses all injury and fatality accident data (available as of 10/10/08) and reported for incidents occurring within the twelve-month period from January 01, 2007 through December 31, 2007. Data was compiled to IMIS through standard site reporting via OSHA Forms-170.

- I. Total Accidents
- II. Fatalities
- III. Non-fatal Injuries
- IV. Narrative Summaries of Accident Injuries & Fatalities

I. TOTAL ACCIDENTS

There were **(69)** accidents associated with SIC code 0783 during the specified time period. **Forty-five** (65.2%) of these accidents resulted in fatalities, and **24** (34.8%) of the incidents reported were *non-fatal* injuries.

Accidents involved **(66)** males and **(3)** females aged 20 through 72. The mean age for accident victims was 35.7 years; median age was 32 years.

Accidents were reported from 24 states. Table 1 summarizes them with respect to relative contribution of nationwide accidents from each state.

TABLE 1: State-by-State Breakdown of Arborist Accidents

<u>State</u>	<u>N=</u>	<u>% Total</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>N=</u>	<u>% Total</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>N=</u>	<u>% Total</u>
CA	26	37.7%	NY	2	2.9%	ME	1	1.4%
VA	6	8.7%	OH	2	2.9%	MI	1	1.4%
NC	4	5.8%	CT	1	1.4%	MO	1	1.4%
TX	4	5.8%	FL	1	1.4%	MS	1	1.4%
OR	3	4.3%	IA	1	1.4%	MA	1	1.4%
SC	3	4.3%	IL	1	1.4%	NY	1	1.4%
AL	2	2.9%	LA	1	1.4%	PA	1	1.4%
GA	2	2.9%	MD	1	1.4%	WV	1	1.4%

Chart 1 represents the relative frequency of total accidents (both fatal and non-fatal) as distributed throughout CY2006.

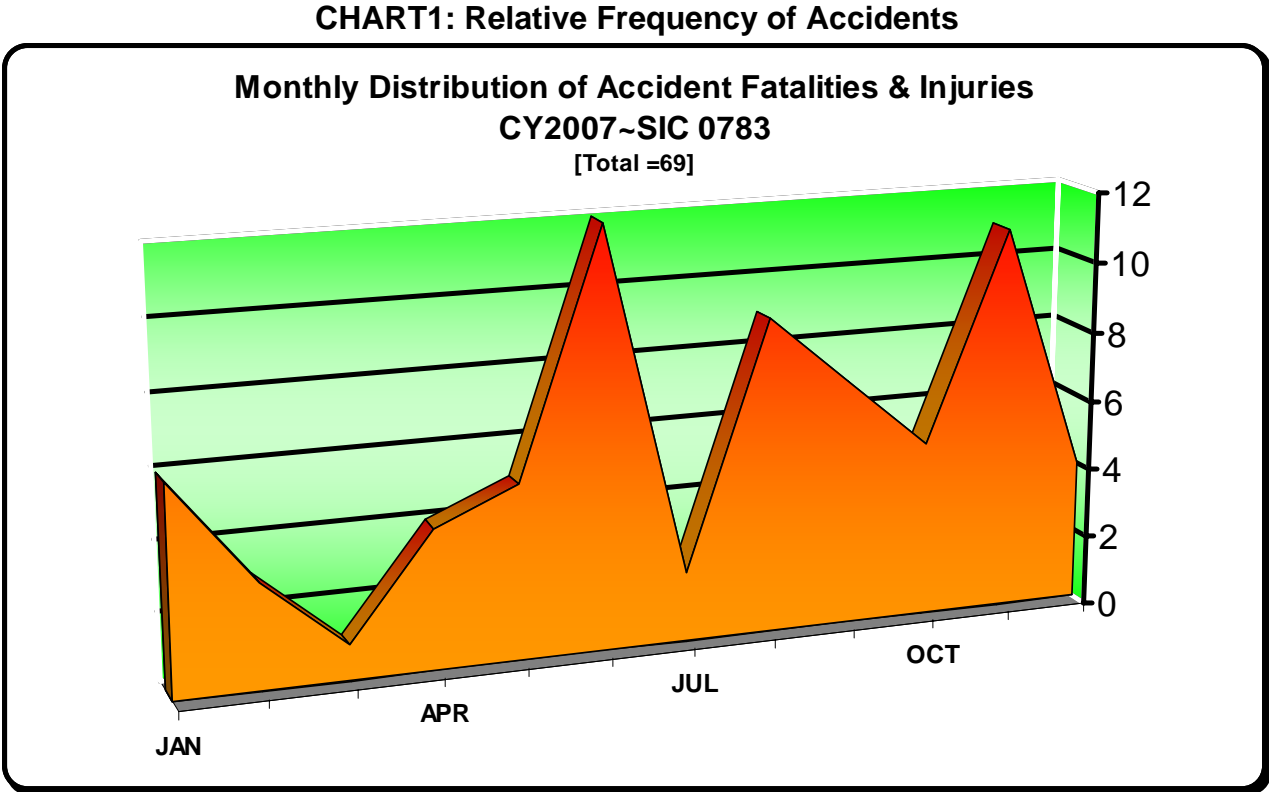


Chart-1 shows that in 2007, total accident injuries associated with the ornamental shrub and tree services industry occurred most frequently during the months of June, August and November.

Chart 2 indicates *all accidents* for SIC Code 0783 in 2007. Accidents were categorized as: falls, employees being struck or crushed, electrocutions, mechanical failures, amputations/lacerations, asphyxiations, and “other”.

CHART 2: Breakdown of all Injuries by Causation

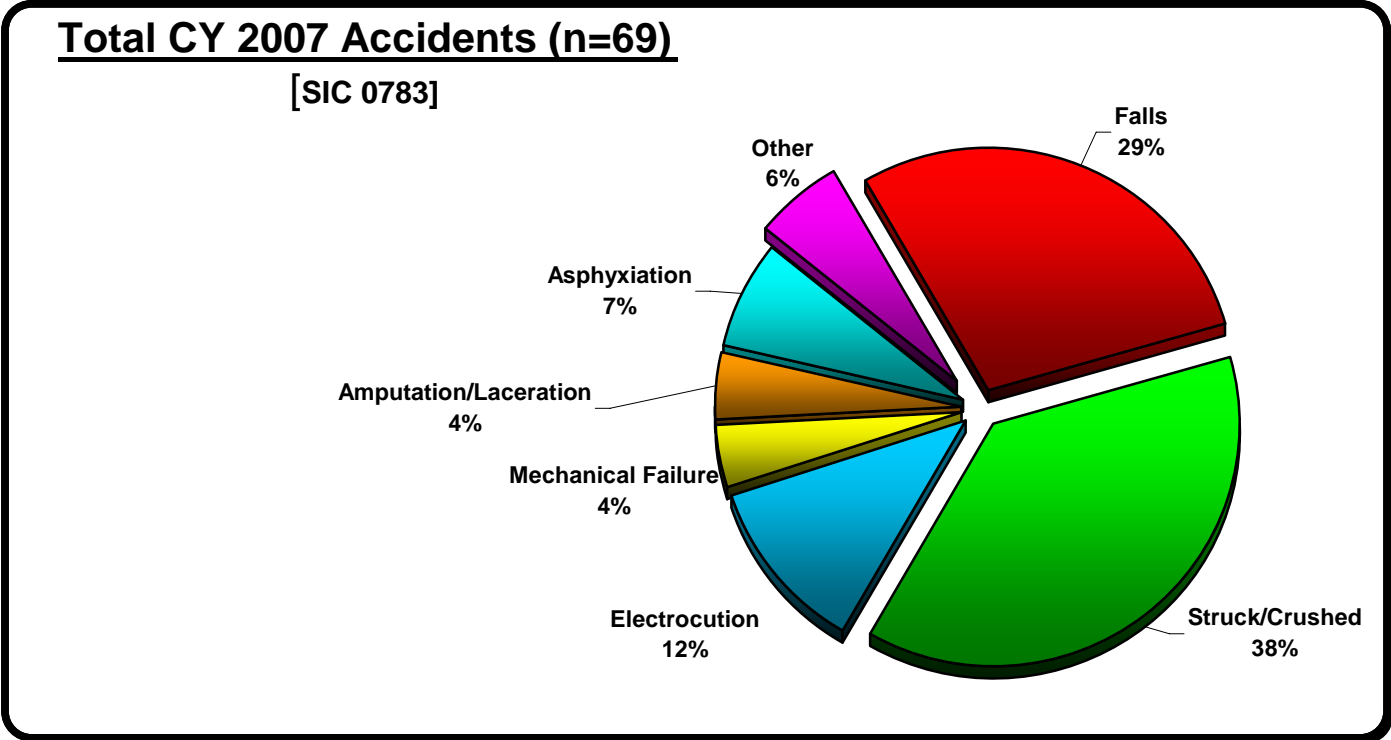


Chart 2 indicates that the primary cause of total accidents within ornamental shrub & tree services industry in 2007 was workers being struck or crushed, generally by tree branches or equipment, (38%). The second leading cause of fatality was falls (29%). These were followed by electrocutions (12%), and asphyxiations (7%)¹.

¹ Asphyxiations are the result of climbers becoming trapped under palm front “skirts”.

II. FATALITIES

There were **(45)** fatalities associated with SIC code 0783 in 2007. All fatalities were males aged 20 through 72. The mean age for fatality victims was 35.7 years; median age was 31 years.

Fatalities were reported from 21 states. **Table 2** summarizes them with respect to relative contribution of nationwide fatalities from each state.

TABLE 2: State-by-State Breakdown of Fatal Arborist Accidents

State	N=	% Total	State	N=	% Total	State	N=	% Total
CA	10	22.2%	GA	2	4.4%	LA	1	2.2%
VA	5	11.1%	OH	2	4.4%	ME	1	2.2%
NC	3	6.7%	PA	2	4.4%	MI	1	2.2%
SC	3	6.7%	NY	2	4.4%	MO	1	2.2%
TX	3	6.7%	CT	1	2.2%	OR	1	2.2%
AL	2	4.4%	FL	1	2.2%	TN	1	2.2%
FL	2	4.4%	IL	1	2.2%	WV	1	2.2%

Chart 3 indicates all **fatalities** for SIC Code 0783 in 2007. Fatality causes were categorized as: falls, employees being struck or crushed, electrocutions, amputations/lacerations, and asphyxiation. There was also one fatality attributed to heat-related stress.

CHART 3: Breakdown of Fatal Injuries by Causation

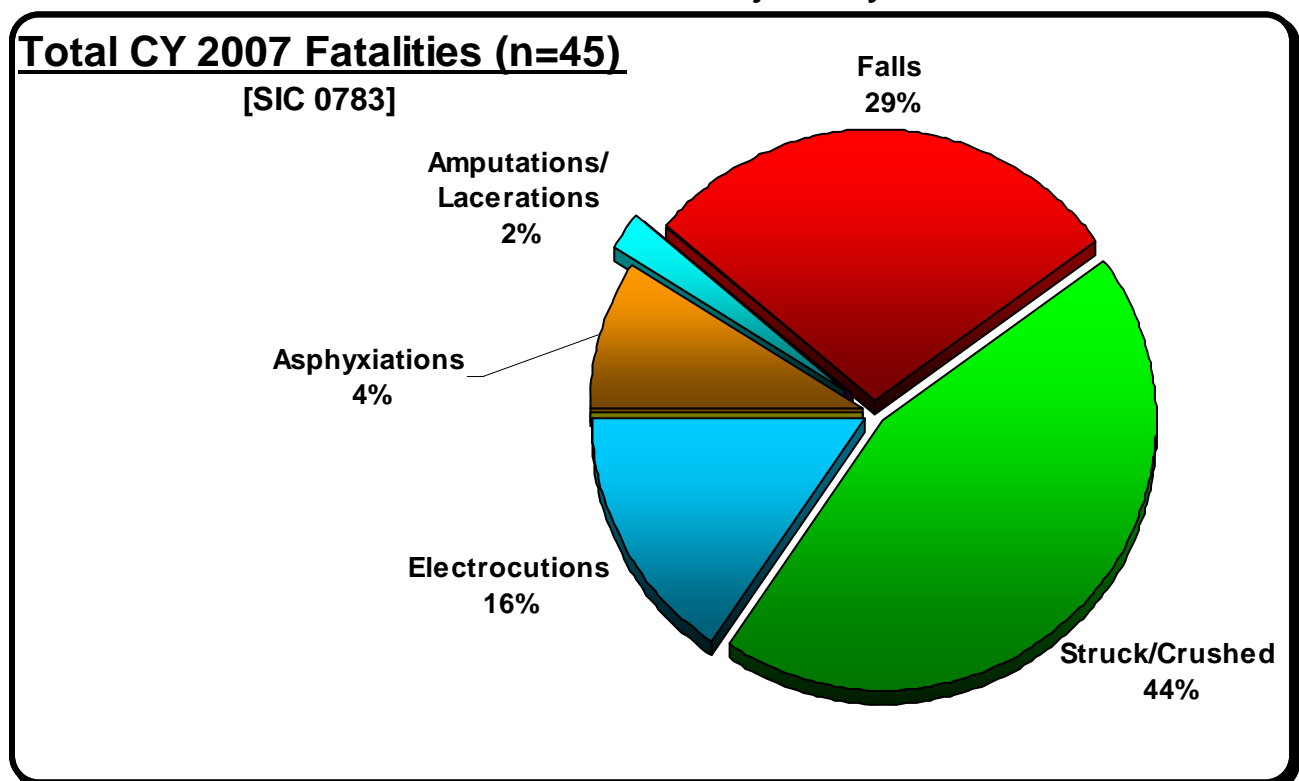


Chart 3 shows that the primary cause of fatalities within the ornamental shrub & tree services industry was workers being struck or crushed, generally by tree branches or equipment (44%). These were followed by falls (29%), and electrocutions (16%).

III. NON-FATAL INJURIES

There were twenty-four (24) non-fatal injuries associated with SIC code 0783 and reported via OSHA Form-170 to IMIS during 2007.

Non-fatal injuries included males and females aged 21 through 64. The mean age for non-fatal injuries was 35.9 years; median age was 36 years.

Non-fatal injuries were reported from six states. **Table 3** summarizes them with respect to relative contribution of nationwide non-fatal accidents from each state.

TABLE 3: State-by-State Breakdown of Non-Fatal Arborist Accidents

<u>State</u>	<u>N=</u>	<u>% Total</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>N=</u>	<u>% Total</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>N=</u>	<u>% Total</u>
CA	18	75.0%	IA	1	4.2%	NC	1	4.2%
OR	2	8.3%	MD	1	4.2%	VA	1	4.2%

Chart 4 indicates all *non-fatal injuries* by cause for SIC Code 0783 in 2007. Non-fatal accident causes were categorized as: falls, employees being struck or crushed, electrocutions, mechanical failures, and amputations/lacerations.

CHART 4: Breakdown of Non-Fatal Injuries by Causation

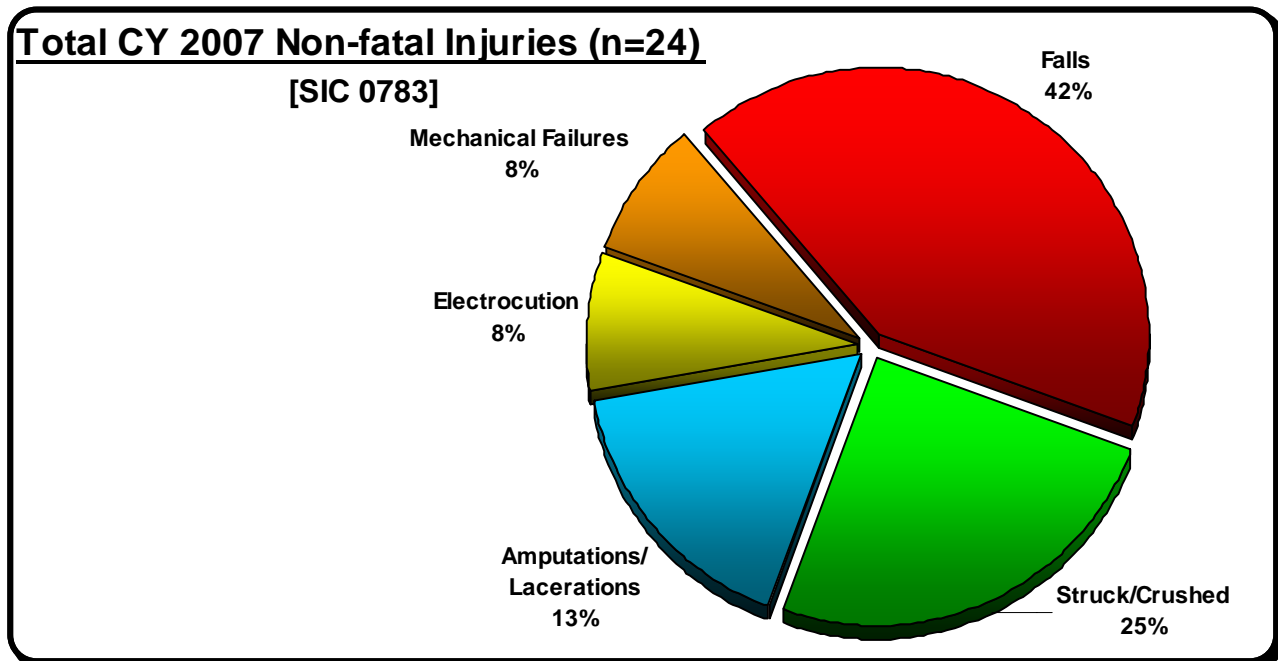


Chart 4 indicates that the primary cause of non-fatal injuries within the ornamental shrub & tree services industry was falls (42%). The second leading cause of fatality was workers being struck

or crushed [generally by tree branches or equipment] (33%). These were followed by amputations/lacerations (13%) and electrocutions (8%).

IV. NARRATIVE SUMMARIES OF ACCIDENT INJURIES & FATALITIES

JANUARY 2007

1) Struck-By #1 [FATAL]

This incident took place during a tree trimming operation at a residence. The victim was using a throwing ball to set a line in a tree when a poplar branch approximately 15" in diameter and approximately 40' in length was broken by a strong gust of wind and fell approximately 75'. There was no work being performed on the tree at the time the limb broke and there had been no work performed on that particular tree before the incident. The victim apparently heard the limb break and was attempting to reach a place of safety. The falling limb broke limbs from several other trees. The victim was struck in the head and received extremely severe head injuries. Victim was working on the ground only. The victim was pronounced dead on the scene.

2) Employee was Crushed [FATAL]

An employee was crushed to death as a side trimmer rolled over him. The employee either jumped or fell from the machine cab as it rolled down a sloped embankment.

3) Fall at the Same Level [Non-FATAL]

At a city government senior center, an employee entered an elevator on the second floor to access the first floor. While entering the elevator the employee, who was carrying several envelopes, fell down. The employee was found lying partly on the floor of the elevator and on the floor of the hallway by the elevator. The employee suffered a left ankle bone fracture. The employee was admitted to the hospital. Surgery was performed to correct the fracture. The cause of the accident is unclear, but the employee believes the elevator is responsible for the accident. The employee claims that the elevator floor was lower than the hallway floor by the elevator and this led to him falling. This employee had a pre-existing walking disorder, which required him to use a cane for walking; the walking disorder may have contributed to the fall. Furthermore, the employee's age and genetics may have contributed to the fracture. Due to a lack of witnesses, no accurate measurement of the elevator floor's depth with the hallway, and confounding factors such as the walking disorder, a clear cause of the accident cannot be determined.

4) Fall from Ladder [Non-FATAL]

An employee was working as a gardener. The pollarding work in the past involved clipping all the new branches using pruning shears. The procedure, however, had been modified the previous winter, leaving one whip (6 to 8 inches long) on each pollarded knob. While most whips

could be easily removed with pruning shears, the whips left from previous year became too thick (2-3 inches in diameter) and required loppers or saws. The employee tried to prune a branch with a two-year whip but due to crowded branches, she could not place the ladder exactly under that branch. The two-year old whip was approximately 2-3 inches thick so she could not use her hand clipper to cut it. She took her lopper and climbed up a 16-foot aluminum tripod ladder. The tree was located on a compacted soil area. She positioned herself on the third rung from the top of the ladder (approximately 13' 4"). As she reached out to her right side in order to reach the whip, her foot slipped and she lost her balance and fell backward to the ground. She suffered three vertical fractures on her sacrum, and a compression fracture on her L-1 vertebra. She was taken to the hospital where she was hospitalized for 5 days. The cause of the accident was unsafe work practices where branches had to be cut off of 16-foot tripod (orchard) ladders utilizing tools and techniques involving both hands. Moreover, the tripod ladder involved in this accident had soil-filled and worn-out pole, and the ground was compacted soil which made the ladder even more unstable.

5) Fall from Tree #1 [Non-FATAL]

This employer is a tree trimming and landscape business. The injured employee works for the company as a tree trimmer. The employee was approximately 40 feet above the ground when he fell out of the tree. The employee stated his safety strap came off the end of his climbing line. He stated he forgot to check his line after having moved to a new location. The employee received injuries to his left shoulder, arm, hip and right knee. He was not hospitalized with his injuries.

6) Slipped on Ice and Fell [Non-FATAL]

This employee was inspecting a roof. As he was doing so, he stepped on an area, which was coated with frost locally known as "BLACK ICE ". He slipped and fell on the concrete patio from a height of approximately 8' and thus sustained heel bone fracture of the right foot.

FEBRUARY 2007

7) Fatality #1 [FATAL]

Employee #1 had climbed a tree and cut the top off at about 30 feet high. The top had fallen and was moved from the base of the tree by Employee #2 (the deceased). Employee #1 then cut off the branches as he descended. Upon reaching the ground, Employee #1 and Employee #2 went to the truck to change chain saws and wrap up the climbing ropes. Employee #1 the gave the "cut-up" saw to Employee #2 and asked him to go to the trunk (about 30 feet in length and 24 inches in diameter) while he checked with the site owner about how long they wanted the logs. 45 - 60 minutes after the tree fell, Employee #1, Employee #2, and another contractor were preparing to cut the trunk of the tree up when it began to slowly roll. Employee #1 and the contractor walked to the end of the tree to allow it to pass but, Employee #2 attempted to step over the rolling trunk. Employee #2 stepped over the trunk with his right leg but, his left leg got caught and the log rolled over him, causing the fatality.

8) Caught in Tree Collapse [FATAL]

A black birch tree failed at the base while an employee was in it attempting to cut a 14.5 foot section off. The employee suffered severe head trauma and later died as a result. Apparently, company employees assessed the tree and determined it was safe to climb. An expert was sought out and rendered an opinion that the tree should have never been climbed.

9) Fall from Tree #2 [Non-FATAL]

This employer is engaged in landscape maintenance and tree services for commercial facilities. Employee #1 and two other employees were in the process of removing a palm tree next to a commercial building. The tree was about 30 ft tall. The tree trunk was about 32" away from the wall of a 20-ft high commercial building. There was a 16- 1/2' high ledge on this building next to the tree. Employee #1 accessed the tree with a ladder setup against the wall up to the ledge level. After that he climbed the tree and trimmed off all the fronds using a chainsaw. He was equipped with a tree worker's saddle and a strap to wrap around the tree. In order to cut off a piece of the tree trunk, he balanced himself with one foot on the ledge and another against the tree trunk without tying himself to anything. As he cut away an approximately 6' long piece of the trunk, it shook up the rest of the tree as this piece fell to the ground causing employee #1 to loose balance. As a result, employee #1 fell about 19-1/2' feet onto compacted dirt surface. Employee #1 suffered closed head injury, laceration to his upper lip, a compression fracture to the lumbar spine and tenderness in the multiple parts of body including his back and both feet. Treatment included the repair of laceration on his lip and pain management. He was hospitalized for three days.

MARCH 2007

10) Struck-By/Crush [FATAL]

Victim was in a large tree cutting limb from trunk. When limb fell the butt end kicked back striking victim in chest pinning him to tree. Victim died instantly.

APRIL 2007

11) Struck-By Tow Line [FATAL]

The two employees were guiding the "skidding" of three large sections of logs up an embankment using two 5/8" nylon ropes, a metal pulley system and two-bucket trucks. The 6 to 7 foot red 5/8 nylon anchor line was attached to the rear of bucket truck #1 at the top section of the roof and attached to the hook of the pulley acting as the anchor point. The white 5/8 inch nylon rope was attached to the tow hook and bumper of bucket truck #2 located approximately 30' to 40' away from bucket truck #1 and was being used to winch the white 5/8" nylon rope through the metal pulley to skid the three logs located 70' to 80' down the embankment. Employee #1 and Employee #2 were standing on the sidewalk directly behind bucket truck # 1 in between the nylons ropes and pulley observing and guiding bucket truck #2 as the logs were being pulled up the 70'-80' foot embankment. The 5/8" red nylon rope attached to bucket truck #1 failed causing the pulling 5/8" white nylon rope to propel the metal pulley/hook striking both employees in the head and facial areas. The employees were knocked over a 3' guard rail and

landed about 13'-15' from the point of impact. Employees on-site called 911, with both the Police Department and Fire Department responding. The Police Department and Fire Department contacted the OSHA Area office and reported the work related injury. Employee #1 was transported by EMS to the Emergency Room where he was pronounced dead. Employee #2 was transported to the Hospital where he was treated for injuries to his neck and facial area and released later that day.

12) Tree Trimmer Caught Between Bucket and Jib [FATAL]

An employee performing tree trimming operations working from an articulating aerial boom truck bucket at an elevation of approximately 50 to 60 ft. The employee dropped the pole saw he was using to trim limbs from a pine tree and in the process of retrieving the pole saw he was caught between the work bucket and the jib extension causing positional asphyxiation. The employee was not using any type of fall protection equipment and no hard hat.

13) Caught in [Non-FATAL]

This employee was working with a crew which was removing trees from a site. The limbs were cut from the trees at a height and then lowered to the ground using a rope. The employees then took the limbs and placed them into a chipper. As the limbs lay on the ground in front of the chipper, the employee began to coil the rope around his arm to prevent it from getting tangled. The other employees picked up the bundle of limbs and also inadvertently a section of the rope the employee was coiling around his arm. When they placed it in the chipper, the rope began to drag the victim into the chipper but when he resisted, it pulled his hand off. He was taken to a hospital where his left arm was amputated just below the elbow.

MAY 2007

14) Fall from Tree #3 [FATAL]

A regular employee of a local tree service had fallen 60 feet from the top of a palm tree that he had been trimming with a small gas chainsaw. The owner of the tree service had not been following the employee's activities in the tree closely, but he noticed the sudden movement when the employee was falling. Fire department emergency services responded, but the employee had expired at the scene. The employee was wearing a tree saddle and climbing spurs; however, the hasp on one end of the employee's safety rope/cable was not attached to his tree saddle. The employer had been hired by the property resident to remove the blossoms from the top of the palm tree that had been falling into a pool below.

15) Tree Trimmer Fell 35 Feet [FATAL]

An employee climbed up to the top of the tree to trim the tree's crown. The tree was being cut down due to decay. The employee was strapped to the tree with a harness approximately 35 feet above the ground. The tree trunk snapped and fell over. The employee fell to the ground when the tree fell.

16) Employee Struck by Chipper Cover [FATAL]

A trailer mounted wood chipper's discharge chute clogged. The employee operating the chipper shut the engine off, disengaged the clutch, climbed on the chipper with the chipper still running, removed the upper hood latch pin, and started to open the hood. The knife blade caught the corner of the hood throwing the hood into the impeller. The hood was blown off the chipper hitting the operator in the chest killing him instantly.

17) Fall to Lower Elevation [FATAL]

An employee was going to cut the branches of a tree that measured approximately 75 feet from the ground. He cut his support lanyard with a chain saw when he was cutting a limb and fell to the ground.

18) Struck By Tree #1 [Non-FATAL]

This employee and his crew were engaged in line clearance tree trimming work. It was near the end of their shift and they had a few dead trees to fall that were within reach of the lines. The Employee had cut a 24" diameter, 112' tall tree which got hung up and lodged in another tree. They attempted to pull the tree at the butt with a winch but could not move it. The employee climbed the tree adjacent to the tree that the felled tree was lodged in and tied a rope to it at a height of 55'. They ran the rope through a block that was hung on a tree 40' off to the side and then ran it back to a tree under the lodged tree where a capstan winch was anchored. They tensioned the line at which point the lodged tree became dislodged and fell towards the employee and a coworker helping him. The employee was struck by the tree as he retreated. He received serious back injuries and was transported to a local hospital and then moved to another center for surgery.

19) Fall from Tree #3 [Non-FATAL]

An employee suffered a serious workplace injury when he fell out of a tree he was climbing. He landed on his back on dirt. Paramedics stabilized the injured employee. He was air evacuated to the County Medical Center, where he was admitted. Surgery-spinal fusion was required. He was later transferred to a rehabilitation center for a lengthy physical therapy program.

JUNE 2007

20) Electrocution [FATAL]

Employees #1 and #2 were trimming a pine tree from a crane with a 57 foot boom. They were trimming trees in a trailer park. The tree was growing close to a 34,500 volt power line. Employee #1 only had on the job training and he had been employed for about 3 weeks. Employee #1 had been climbing a few small trees but had no formal training. Employee #1 took the saw and cut a limb that was on his side of the power line. The limb was about four feet long and five inches circumference. He cut the limb and it started to lean towards the power line and Employee #1 reached over and caught the limb at the same time that it made contact with the 34,500 volt power line. Employee #2 tried to free Employee #1 from the limb but was shocked and had to let him go. The chain saw was still running and Employee #1 was waving it around uncontrollably. Employee #2 yelled for him to drop the saw and he did. At that time Employee #2 began kicking the limb and eventually broke the grip that Employee #1 had on the limb.

Employee #1 collapsed in the bottom of the basket and Employee #2 took the controls and called for one of the helpers to call 911 emergency. Once the basket was on the ground, Employee #2 and the two helpers lifted Employee #1 out of the basket and laid him on the ground. Emergency Medical Services transported Employee #1 to the hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

21) Struck-By Pine Tree [FATAL]

An employee was cutting down a dead pine tree. The employee apparently intended to land the tree next to an existing palm tree. As the tree being cut began to fall, it landed on the palm tree. At that point the upper end of the dead pine tree broke off and fell. The bottom section of the pine tree had risen up and began sliding back toward the employee. The employee started to run directly away from the tree but in the direction the tree was sliding. The tree struck the employee in the head sending him to the ground where the tree landed on him and then rolled off. The employee was pronounced at the scene.

22) Crushed-By, Caught-in Between [FATAL]

An employee clearing the right-of-way under power lines was crushed-by and caught in, when the tractor he was using rolled over on top of him in a steep area.

23) Fall [FATAL]

An employee conducting tree felling operations fell out of a tree and onto the ground and sustained severe head and neck injuries. Employee expired at site.

24) Electrocution [FATAL]

Victim was in tree trimming limbs from around a 138 KV power transmission line when he was electrocuted. The limb he was cutting was not roped off and it fell coming in contact with or falling close enough to the line that the electricity could arc across the limb and into the tree and the victim.

25) Struck By Tree #2 [FATAL]

The Chain Saw Operator had already cut a 9 inch diameter dead pine tree, and had caused it to fall toward the Northeast. The Chain Saw Operator, accompanied by a Grounds man, moved 8 inches to the North of the 1st tree to cut a dead 16 inch diameter pine tree. The 16 inch pine was cut and fell to the West. As this second tree fell, it fell onto the dead, 19.3 foot tall stub of another tree which was 14 feet 6 3/4 inches to the West. When the 2nd tree hit the stub, its top broke off, and its butt kicked back fatally striking the Chain Saw Operator.

26) Employee Fell Under a Trailer and was Run Over [FATAL]

An employee who was working to fell, de-limb trees and operate a front-end loader was running to catch up to a debris trailer. While on a small embankment he slipped and fell in between the wheels of the trailer and was run over resulting in fatal injuries.

27) Electric Shock Resulting in Fall from Ladder [FATAL]

A tree trimmer cut a limb, which fell onto a power line electrocuting him and he fell approximately 20 ft.

28) Pulled Into Brush Chipper [Non-FATAL]

A section of the branch that was being fed into the in-feed chute of a brush chipper caught the employee's glove on their hand. As the branch was being fed into the brush chipper the employee was also pulled into the in-feed chute. As the feed wheels continued to rotate they made contact with the employee's right hand and arm. The feed wheels continued to pull the employee into the in-feed chute. The employee made contact with the rotating blade of the brush chipper.

29) Broken Ankle, Jammed Back and Hips [Non-FATAL]

An employee was seriously injured while repelling down a line attached to an aerial boom. Normally, the employee is a tree surgeon who uses an aerial boom to trim trees for a city government. At the time of the accident, the employee was with a supervisor and they were at an elementary school career day fair demonstrating what to do if he was in an aerial bucket that was stuck. The area was the school playground. Before the accident, the employee raised the bucket by his own controls to 55 feet in elevation. His supervisor for the demonstration was on the ground. The employee was wearing a tree climbing saddle. Attached to his saddle was a ball locking carabineer. The employee said he brought down the rope. According to the employee, he ensured that a "figure 8" was attached to his carabineer both by feel and by looking at it. The line the employee is descending down runs through the "figure 8" and the "figure 8" provides the braking force to control speed of fall. When he descended down, the "figure 8" separated from the carabineer. The figure 8 was left behind on the line while the carabineer and saddle descended with the employee. The employee was only able to control his speed by using his gloves and landed on his feet at a high rate of speed. The employee broke his right ankle and injured his back. According to the supervisor, the carabineer was open after he hit the ground. Upon observation, the sleeve of the locking mechanism was twisted.

30) Employee Fell from Tree [Non-FATAL]

The employee was repelling from a 120 foot tall fir tree, when his rope slipped through his carabineer, falling 40 to 50 to the ground.

31) Truck Ran up Leg [Non-FATAL]

The employer is a tree maintenance and removal service. The injured employee was in the process of repairing his chainsaw in a driveway. The employee was hit by the right front tire of the aerial truck. The driver of the truck pulled into the driveway to turn around and did not see the employee kneeling down. The employee received a broken pelvis, bruised heel and a torn urethra.

JULY 2007

32) Limb Fell on Head [FATAL]

An employee was holding the ladder for his coworker while the coworker was cutting a branch off a tree at a height of 18 feet. The tree limb snapped and hit the employee in the head. The employee was taken to the hospital, where he died from his injuries the following day.

33) Crushed by Tractor Rollover [FATAL]

The District office was notified of a fatal accident to a tractor driver. The Division determined that the deceased was not an employee. The relationship between the deceased and the tractor owner was an informal partnership. The inspection was closed and no citations were issued.

AUGUST 2007

34) Heat-Related [FATAL]

An employee was found lying beside the street 0.2 miles from where he was last seen 2 hours prior. The employee had worked dragging limbs from tree trimming operation for chipping. He had worked for approximately 3 hours from 9 am to 12 pm, and then took off walking in the direction where he was later found. The employee informed the owner that he didn't feel well, and the owner directed him to go sit in the truck. The employee sat in the truck briefly, and then left the job site on foot, walking toward his house approximately 4 blocks away. The employee was found two hours later by EMS lying on the side of the street. He was taken to the hospital, and had a body temperature of 107.4 degrees at the time of admission to the hospital. The employee never regained consciousness and was unresponsive. The employee was pronounced dead. The employee's cause of death was an apparent heat stroke according to medical records provided to OSHA by the next of kin. No autopsy was conducted. The next of kin indicated that the deceased complained of not being provided with adequate breaks when working in hot sun. Medical records indicate that the employee was on medication that may decrease the ability to regulate body temperature.

35) Fall from Tree #4 [FATAL]

Employee climbing tree when the top section of the tree snapped off and employee fell approximately 63 feet to the ground.

36) Employee Struck in the Head [FATAL]

An employee was killed during the towing of an aerial lift. The victim was also the head supervisor of the crew that were conducting tree trimming operations. The aerial lift, which weighed approximately 10,700 pounds, became stuck in soft terrain while operating in the front

yard of a residence. The foreman/victim took it upon himself to free the stuck aerial lift. He selected a 5/8 inch synthetic rope and looped it through one of 2 steel eyelets located at the rear of the aerial lift. After threading the rope through the eyelet he looped the rope tying a knot and then inserting a small log. The other end of the rope was then secured to a split truck that was positioned approximately 100 feet from the aerial lift. The crew had succeeded in freeing the aerial lift pulling it for approximately 20 feet when the rope broke violently retracting back towards the tow or split truck. The foreman who positioned himself near the split truck was initially struck by the rope and eventually by the log that he previously attached to the rope. The log struck the foreman in the head--killing him instantly.

37) Employee Trimming Tree Electrocuted [FATAL]

Employee was trimming tree branches from power lines and came in contact with the lower 120 volt line, shocking him. He was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

38) Fall of Approximately 30 Feet [FATAL]

An employee was trimming the top of a tree when he released the guide wire and cut through trunk. The tree fell on top of him--striking him and causing him to fall approximately 30 feet to the ground below.

39) Electrocution [Non-FATAL]

An employee was trimming a tree in close proximity to an energized power line when the tree branch being trimmed came into contact with the 7.3 KV power line. The employee grabbed the branch and suffered electrical shock. The employee received burns to the left hand and right foot. The employee is currently hospitalized and expected to make a full recovery.

40) Aerial Lift Boom Collapse, Fall from Basket [Non-FATAL]

The company owner was performing a tree trimming operation from within the basket of an articulating boom aerial lift. During this elevated boom work there was a failure in the linkage between a hydraulic lifting cylinder and the basket's boom arm. This failure allowed the boom arm and the personnel basket to drop rapidly. Upon impact between the personnel basket and the vehicle cab area, the owner (who was not wearing a harness) was thrown from the basket. Upon the initial site evaluation and interviews, OSHA did not have jurisdiction therefore further investigation was not conducted.

41) Broken Leg [Non-FATAL]²

An accident resulted in a serious injury to one employee. The injured employee was working as a "lineman" with a crew of four employees, including him. They were working on a project of replacing an electrical pole, and transformer. On the day of the accident, one employee had climbed the pole and installed the "gin pole" assembly to the pole. The "gin pole" assembly is used to hoist the transformer up the pole for installation. At the time of the accident, the crew

² This accident appears to have involved an employee outside of tree trimming and SIC 0783. It was included in this report in error.

was in the process of raising the 448 lb. transformer onto the new pole to install it. They were using an electric hoist with a 100 ft., one-inch-diameter polypropylene "bull line" rope which is wrapped on the pulley block and hooked to the gin pole. The transformer had been raised up to the location under the cross arm where it was to be attached to the pole. The employee who installed the "transformer gin assembly", was located on the pole just below the cross arm. Another employee, the injured employee, had climbed the pole and was positioned about half-way down the 45 ft. pole. According to the injured employee, he was positioned there to direct the transformer as it was raised to make sure it was not in position to hit other cables and apparatus on the pole. Two other employees were located on the ground, one operating the hoist and the other operating a tag line for the transformer. The injured employee's job was to stay on the pole until the transformer was successfully attached to the pole. At the moment the transformer was raised into position and the employee on top was about to fasten it in place, the "transformer gin assembly" came off the pole, causing the transformer to fall along with the whole "transformer gin assembly". The hoist rope came down and fell across the injured employee's safety belt, pushing him into the pole with the weight of the hanging transformer causing his right leg to be smashed against the pole. The leg was broken between the knee and ankle, and the employee could not release himself from his position. The Foreman who was on the ground immediately cut the rope which released the pressure from his leg and they initiated a "pole rescue" operation to bring the injured employee off the pole. The employee was taken to the hospital, where he remained for seven days with surgery to his right leg. Employee has returned to work on light duty.

42) Hand Amputation with Wood Chipper [Non-FATAL]

Case involves an employee who sustained amputation of the right hand when he inadvertently contacted the blade drum on a brush chipper during an attempt to un-jam the unit. The employer is a tree trimming and horticultural service. At the time of the accident, two employees were feeding palm fronds to a brush chipper that was filling the back of a haulage vehicle at a work site. There was site foreman who had climbed the trees and was cutting the fronds which fell to the ground. The foreman was moving on to trees around the corner from the location where the chipper was to begin to trim other trees when another foreman arrived at the site. At this point the chipper became jammed with the fronds and had to be cleaned out. So the two employees operating the chipper turned the engine off, and disengaged the clutch as per company policy. They had to wait for the chipper blade drum to slow to a stop which required several minutes. The second foreman who arrived later went over to the operation and inquired why the chipper was being shut down and the employees replied that the unit required un-jamming. The second foreman walked away, and at some point after this the two employees began to open the bottom of the chip chute to expose the blade drum, so as to begin to clear out the jammed palm frond. The injured employee stated that all he remembered was reaching up into the upper portion of the blade drum area when the accident occurred but at some point contact was made with the rotating blade drum, causing full amputation of the right hand.

SEPTEMBER 2007

43) Employee Working on the Ground Struck By a Cut Tree Trunk [FATAL]

The victim was allegedly trimming branches from a tree limb that had been cut when the limb started to roll over. The victim then allegedly ran under the rolling limb and was struck causing

fatal injuries to the head. The person in charge alleges all people onsite were volunteers because he does not have a company.

44) Electrocuted while Picking Up Brush [FATAL]

The deceased was working as part of a crew removing dead trees near a power line. Another employee had cut a dead branch and the branch fell upon a guy wire. The deceased was attempting to dislodge the branch from the guy wire when the guy wire broke, whipped up, striking an overhead power line. The energized power line broke and fell to the ground. Current passed through the wet grass and electrocuted the deceased.

45) Fall due to Tree Failure [FATAL]

The employee was in the process of topping a tree when it uprooted, resulting in the employee landing on the concrete and died.

46) Fall from Tree [Non-FATAL]

Employee #1 was assisting two other employees in cutting down and removing tree from the front yard of a residential home. Employee #1 was standing on top of a tree branch 12 feet high, when the branch Employee #1 was standing on was hit by another part of the tree that was cut by Employees #2 and #3, causing Employee #1 to fall 12 feet to ground, injuring his back. Emergency assistance was called and Employee #1 was transported to a nearby Medical Center. No surgery was required by Employee #1 was kept in hospital for approximately a week. According to employer the tree branch was rotted, but the Division could not inspect the tree since it was removed completely, root and all.

47) Overturned Aerial Lift [Non-FATAL]

An employee was working in an aerial lift cutting off the top of the tree in preparation to cut the tree down completely. He was approximately 26' above the compacted soil. The employee attempted to reposition the machine, and as he performed this operation, the wheel of the lift rode up the stump area of the tree. When the wheel rode up the stump all the weight was then shifted to the rear of the machine causing it to start tipping backwards. The employee rode the machine almost all the way down before jumping out of the bucket. 911 was called and the employee was transported to the hospital, where he underwent surgery for 2 broken arms and a dislocated eye socket.

48) Fall from Tree #5 [Non-FATAL]

The employer is a landscape and maintenance contractor. The incident occurred on a shopping mall parkway which is landscaped with ground cover and two young Tristania trees ranging from fifteen feet-twenty feet in height. Prior to the accident Employee #1, was driven to the site by the immediate Supervisor, Employee #2 drove the dump truck. At that time the Supervisor stated that he discussed and instructed Employee #1 and #2 regarding the tree trimming procedures. The Tristania trees to be trimmed were young, thin branched and approximately twenty feet in height. Employees #1 and #2 were instructed to use a pole trimmer and not to climb the trees. The Supervisor stated that as he drove away from the site he noticed Employee #1 had started

to trim a Tristania tree using the pole trimmer as directed. Employee #2 drove the dump truck from an upper level parking area around a building and when he arrived at the site, found Employee #1 sitting on the ground. The Supervisor stated that he was called within five minutes of leaving; to return to the site. Upon arriving, Employee #2 told the Supervisor that Employee #1 told him that he had climbed the tree and tied off to a branch, the branch broke and he fell to the ground. The Division measured the limb identified by Employee #1 to be eleven feet high. Employee #1 suffered head, back trauma, and shoulder pain and was held for spinal precaution and observation.

49) Cut by Chain Saw [Non-FATAL]

This employee was up about 5 to 6 feet on an extension ladder, trimming palm fronds with a portable chain saw, when his upper left arm was lacerated by the saw's blade. Paramedics took the injured employee to the hospital where he was admitted for surgery and hospitalized for three days.

OCTOBER 2007

50) Fall from #1 [FATAL]

The deceased and other crew were discussing where they were going for lunch. Two were in the cab and the deceased was on the passenger side running board. The driver had passenger look to the left and saw nothing, they looked back to the right and the deceased was gone. The driver assumed he had gotten in the back of the truck and as they began to pull into the road they felt a bump. They stopped and the passenger exited the truck and found the right front tire on top of the deceased. He was approximately 68 inches tall and the hood of the truck was 70 inches tall. The distance from the running board to front of the truck was 83 inches and the deceased still had the tire on top of him. The driver backed it off of him, but he was dead at the scene.

51) Struck By #2 [FATAL]

An employee was struck when a sling in a choker hitch holding a section of a tree measuring approximately 40 feet in length failed as the second choker came loose from the crane hook causing the tree section to fall and strike employee. The employee had been working from a bucket truck removing the tree using a chain saw. The employee had cut through most of the tree measuring 18 inches in diameter and it was attached to two 3/8 inch steel slings both in a choker hitch. One of the slings came loose from the hook and the second sling snapped allowing the tree section to fall down striking the victim who was in the basket down on the truck. The employee while cutting down the tree had made a back cut approximately 3/4 of the way through the tree without using an undercut or a notch. The employee received fatal injuries when the tree fell and struck him.

52) Employee Electrocuted While Touching Energized Truck [FATAL]

Two work crews arrived at a roadway work site. Crew #1 consisted of a foreman and ground man who traveled to the site location in Vehicle #1. Crew #2 consisted of a foreman and two ground men who traveled to the site location in Vehicle #2. The two work crews met with a

representative from a tree service company. The foremen from both crews and the tree service company representative walked along the roadside to evaluate the work to be performed in accordance with the status sheet. The tree service company was on site working for the property owner in the capacity of removing the downed tree logs after each tree was removed by Crews #1 and #2, loading onto their work log truck, hauling it up the property owners driveway and off-loading the logs onto the property owner's lot. Upon completion of the work assessment, the two foremen and tree service company representative walked back to the work truck location meeting back with the ground men. The scope of work included removing five trees. The foreman from Crew #2 assigned the ground man of Crew #1 to be a traffic control flagger to the work area, and the two ground men from Crew #2 were assigned to be ground men in the work area, and the foreman of Crew #1 was assigned to perform the tree trimming and removal work in the aerial lift. The tree service company representative traveled north and staged on the west side roadside work area. One road work sign was set up on the south side of the work area in the eastbound lane approximately 300 feet from the rear of vehicle #1. The work sign stated Work Area Ahead. A second Work Ahead Area sign was set up on the side of the westbound lane heading south. Numerous traffic cones were set up around the perimeter of the two work trucks in order to establish the work zone. The northbound lane on the east side of the road was closed to traffic. The ground man of work Crew #1 and the foreman of work Crew #2 were the traffic control flaggers for the work area to alternate the traffic through the one lane. The wheel chocks were placed under the rear wheels of both trucks. The two ground men from Crew #2 retrieved and set up the hand tools for the work to be performed and set up the wood chipper table for operation that was attached to Vehicle #2. The foreman of crew #1 accessed the bucket of vehicle #1 raised the upper boom section of the aerial lift and then the lower section of the aerial lift. The crews started de-limbing the far north tree on the east side of the road first and planned on working their way to the other four trees south of the first tree. The Crew #1 foreman starting near the base of the tree crown started trimming the tree limbs of the first tree and was dropping them onto the steep embankment on the east side roadway. The two ground men assisting in the tree removal operation were standing behind Vehicle #2 with each one standing on either side of the wood chipper. Since most of the limbs were cleared the week prior, only the upper part of the crown of the tree needed to be completed prior to felling the tree. The foreman of Crew #1 cleared the limbs that were closest to the power lines but were approximately 20 feet above the power lines and continued working back aware from the power lines. While moving back away from the overhead power lines the elbow between the upper and lower boom came close to the road phase of the overhead power line. At this time, the Crew #1 foreman elevated the scissor lift of the aerial lift to obtain additional reach in order to de-limb the backside branches of the tree. Upon completing a section of tree de-limbing, the Crew #1 foreman would stop cutting and signaled for the two ground men to retrieve the fallen limbs from the embankment. The ground man on the east side of the wood chipper walked up the embankment and handed the limbs down to the second ground man who fed the limbs into the wood chipper attached to Vehicle #2. After about three times of the Crew #1 foreman de-limbing and the ground men feeding downed limbs into the wood chipper, the Crew #1 foreman started felling the tree in sections. While the Crew #1 foreman felled chunks of wood the two ground men waited between Vehicle #1 and Vehicle #2. The dropping of the wood chunks down to the steel embankment on the east side of the roadway caused the wood to strike the passenger side of Vehicle #1. After a couple of wood chunks struck the side of Vehicle #1, the ground man on the east side wood chipper, upon safe signaling from the Crew #1 foreman, walked into the embankment and set up and create a barrier with the fallen wood chunks to prevent future fallen wood chunks from falling and striking Vehicle #1. Upon

completion of the barrier, the ground man exited the embankment area and staged between the two vehicles. The other ground man walked across the street and stood behind the guardrail due to the amount of traffic traveling along the road. The Crew #1 foreman dropped another chunk of wood and signaled to move or retrieve the fallen wood chunk. The ground man across the street walked back across the street to shutoff the wood chipper attached to Vehicle #2 and then walked up the passenger side of Vehicle #2 stopping at the passenger side door to either drop of his gloves or cigarettes and continued walking around the front of Vehicle #2 and down the drivers side of Vehicle #2. While walking down the drivers side of Vehicle #2 at approximately the half way point the ground man heard a loud buzzing noise. The ground man walked down to the area between Vehicle #1 and Vehicle #2 while looking up towards the Crew #1 foreman in the air and observed electrical arcing between the lower boom section and the power lines. The ground man yelled to the Crew #1 foreman to move the boom and then looked down to where the other ground man was located and observed the ground man standing with either his right or left hand on the vertical metal tube between the metal platform above the vehicle cab and the metal bumper of the vehicle. The ground man (attached to the metal tube) was facing south towards the cab of Vehicle #1 with his right side facing the other ground man. According to the observing ground man, the other ground man had a blank stare on his face. The ground man ran over to one of the hanger poles lying on the ground near the drivers side of Vehicle #2, obtained the pole, and ran back to the ground man and attempted to grab one of the ground man's belt loops in an attempt to pull him away from the truck. According to the ground man attempting to pull the other ground man free from the truck, he observed the ground man's shirt, which was not tucked into his pants, being raised up by either a breeze or electricity and observed the ground man's feet on fire. The belt loop broke. The ground man ran over to the driver's side of vehicle #2 and yelled to call 911. Upon hearing the buzzing noise the Crew #2 foreman standing on the north side of the work area performing traffic duties yelled to the Crew #1 foreman to get away from the power lines and assigned his traffic duties to the tree care service company representative and then ran south towards the work area. The tree care service company representative called 911. The Crew #2 foreman obtained the fire extinguisher from Vehicle #2 and the buzzing noise had stopped. The ground man in contact with the front passenger side tube of Vehicle #1 fell to the ground and the Crew #2 foreman extinguished the fire surrounding him. The Crew #2 foreman also yelled and instructed the Crew #1 foreman to lower the aerial lift down towards the rear side of Vehicle #1 and performed first aid and CPR on the injured ground man. The uninjured ground man working in the work area ran to the rear side of Vehicle #1 and stopped the Crew #1 foreman from attempting to run to the incident location. The ground man working traffic duty on the south side of the work area assisted in preventing the Crew #1 foreman from running to the incident location. The Crew #2 foreman also ran to the rear of Vehicle #1 to assist. After getting Crew foreman #1 back to the rear of vehicle #1, he returned to the injured ground man to provide additional first aid and was met by a fire department individual who directed him to step away. While attempting to control Crew foreman #1, the workers observed another fire on the embankment on the east side of Vehicle #1. The ground man originally performing traffic duties on the south side of the work area obtained additional fire extinguishers and extinguished the fire. Fire and EMS arrived and took control of the incident location. All members of the crews were directed to stage on the south side of the work area. All members were provided with medical attention and the Crew foreman #1 was transported to a local medical facility.

53) Fall with Tree [FATAL]

The employee was part of a crew of three employees assigned to cut down an Alder tree approximately 50 feet in height. The procedures were to cut down the tree in sections, and lower it to the ground. While attempting to lower the tree to the ground, the tree struck another tree and shock loaded causing the lower tree to snap and employee fell to the ground. Employee was tied into the tree.

54) Fall due to Tree Failure [FATAL]

The deceased worked for a tree service that was removing trees from a residential lot. They had used a bucket truck to take out 3 trees in the back yard. The Deceased climbed up a dead pine tree in the front yard, about 50 feet up, and cut the 12 foot top out. He then began to descend to cut off another section when the tree began to tip over and the deceased came down with it, striking the ground. He sustained massive head trauma and died at the scene.

NOVEMBER 2007

55) Electrocution [FATAL]

The employee had been hired as a day labor to limb a pine tree approximately 20 feet above the ground in preparation for felling the tree. He was working in a narrow side yard planted with mature pine trees between two residential houses. A 19,900-volt high voltage power line also ran between the two houses to a transformer. The employee was limbing immediately adjacent to the power lines, and used his chain saw to cut a tree limb that became entangled in the power lines. The victim grabbed the tree limb to free it and was immediately electrocuted by 19,900 volts running through the tree limb. The voltage entered through his right hand and exited through his right ankle via his climbing spikes. Personal protective equipment in use by the victim hung in the power lines until extracted by the local power utility. The owner of the company had not contacted the owner of the power lines (utility company). The lines had not been de-energized, blanketed or re-routed to protect the employee. The employee was pronounced deceased by medics at the scene. No workers at the site were trained in response or first aid/CPR.

56) Fall With Tree that Broke at the Base [FATAL]

An employee taking down a dead tree climbed the tree to a height of approximately 40 ft. and cut the top off. When the top broke free the tree swayed and broke at the base. The employee was fatally injured when the tree fell.

57) Forty-feet Up, Palm Fronds Slipped, Trapped & Suffocated Employee [FATAL]

An employee was approximately 40 feet up in a palm tree to remove dead fronds, utilizing boot spikes and climbing harness with cable around the tree, when a section of dead fronds slid down the tree trapping the employee. The employee was unable to move or inhale due to the weight of the fronds pinning him into his harness. A co-worker and the supervisor called 911. The fire department attempted rescue, however the employee was pronounced dead by paramedics before the fire department could release him from the fronds pinning him. The body was released to the County Coroner once removed from the tree.

58) Cutting Palm Tree Suffocated Fatal [FATAL]

An employee died while trimming dead fronds from a 60' Mexican Fan Palm Tree. The employee had been working as a tree trimmer and landscape maintenance person for 5 months. The employee and his 4 co-workers were trimming 15 palm trees at a private residence. The employee had climbed a 60' palm and was trimming the dead fronds when the fronds broke free and slid down the trunk of the tree trapping the victim under several hundred pounds of dead vegetation. Before EMS personnel could rescue the victim, he asphyxiated. The victim and his four co-workers were not regular full-time hourly laborers.

59) Fall to Lower Level [FATAL]

The company had been contracted to remove dead trees from a property. A climber climbed approximately 46 feet into a dead oak tree, cut the top 20 portion of the tree off, and was lowering the tree top with a rope, when the base of the tree broke causing the climber and a 35 foot portion of the uncut tree trunk to fall to the ground. The worker sustained internal injuries to his chest and succumbed to his injuries a short time later.

60) Shredded By Wood Chipper [FATAL]

The employer operates a tree trimming business and at the time of the accident had a three-man crew engaged in light tree trimming activities at a private residential site. Employee #3 was pruning trees approximately 30 feet from the incident location. Employee #1 (deceased) and Employee #2 were picking up the cut branches (brush) and placing them adjacent to a wood chipper. The chipper is capable of chipping logs up to 18 inches in diameter at a rate of 146 inches per minute. The chipper is equipped with a factory-installed bar that acts both as a quick-stop and reversing feed control bar. This bar is located across the top and runs along each side of the feed table, parallel with the feed rollers. The quick-stop bar is readily accessible to the operator when the chipper is fed from the side of the in-feed chute, as recommended by the manufacturer. The operator's manual specifies not to feed the chipper from directly behind the chute/feed tray area. The feed table provides an important measure of safety by increasing the distance between the feed rollers and the operator, and the tray is not to be climbed on to while the feed drums are operating or the engine is running. Employee #2 stated that Employee #1 started up the chipper while he (Employee #2) went around the side of the house to pick up more brush. A few minutes later, as Employee #2 returned to the chipper, Employee #1 was nowhere in sight. As he looked for him, Employee #2 noticed a pair of shoes in the feed rollers entering the chipper intake throat. At that point, he immediately ran over to shut down the chipper and saw that Employee #1's entire body had been fed through the VC and into the dump truck. There were no percipient witnesses as to the sequence of events that led to Employee #1's demise. Employee #1 was officially pronounced dead at the scene. Employee #1 was a full-time employee with no other contracts.

61) Lift Collapsed While Employee Cutting Tree Limbs [FATAL]

The employee was up in the bucket of an articulating boom truck approximately 30-40 feet trimming or roping off tree branches when the boom failed, crashing down into the side of the truck and throwing victim from bucket into the guardrail. Victim died from his injuries.

62) Employee Stuck in Palm Tree When It Collapsed [FATAL]

The incident occurred at the front yard of a home. Two other employees were present. The victim was trimming palm tree leaves, approximately 40 feet up. He was using climbing boots, body belt and lanyard. The palm leaves fell on him, suffocating him. He did not fall from the tree and was revived by paramedics. However, an inspector went to his residence and a family member stated that he died 2 days after the accident.

63) Crushed By Palm Tree Fronds [Non-FATAL]

The employer reported that a tree trimmer suffered broken ribs and a back injury that required inpatient hospitalization as a result of being struck by falling palm fronds while he was trimming a palm tree at a customer's location. The employer's report was not timely made. The site was a catholic church and was accessible to the public. On that date, the employer was no longer performing work activity at the site. On the day of the accident, the injured worker with two co-workers; a laborer and a driver, started work to remove a palm tree. Prior to cutting down the tree, the workers needed to first remove the dead fronds from the crown. The injured worker climbed the palm tree and was cutting the fronds while one of the workers below was collecting them to take to the truck. The worker was using a chain saw to cut the dead palm frond rings while secured to the trunk with a rope and a leather tree worker's saddle. The worker was also wearing metal climbing spikes. As the employee was clearing the dead palm fronds that he had cut, several fronds fell on top of him causing him to hyperextend his spine backwards. The worker then climbed down from the palm tree complaining of severe back and chest pain. The worker was transported to the hospital where he was admitted and treated for fractured lumbar vertebrae and for several ribs that had separated from the sternum (costochondral separation). He is an experienced tree trimmer and utilizes tree trimmer's climbing gear and a chain saw regularly to perform his work. On the day of the accident, the employee was using a chain saw and was cutting chunks out of the fronds working from the outside in toward the trunk when several dead palm fronds fell on top of him. The weight of the palm fronds caused the employee to hyperextend his back during a backward spinal bend that resulted in a lumbar vertebrae fracture and several of his ribs to separate from his sternum. The employee was hospitalized for 11-days and continues to receive physical therapy and treatment for his back injury.

64) Hand Caught in Wood Chipper [Non-FATAL]

This employer is engaged in the landscape and tree maintenance services for the residential and commercial clients. Employee #1 was in the process of operating a brush chipper. After turning the brush chipper on, he started feeding tree branches. Due to some malfunction, the exit chute on the brush chipper got clogged up. In order to un-jam the machine, employee #1 turned its engine off and employee #2 helped him to flip the chute backwards, which exposed the rotary drum with the sharp blades. As employee #1 was attempting to pull out some of the stuck branches from the chute, an unexpected spring action movement of a forked branch pushed his right hand against the blades on the drum which was still spinning. After shutting the power off, the rotary drum takes more than 2 minutes before it stops spinning completely. Employee #1 amputated his thumb, index, middle and ring fingers on his right hand. He was treated in the emergency room and was not hospitalized overnight. Employee #1 was not a contract employee.

65) Struck By Chipper Lid [Non-FATAL]

The accident occurred when a climber, an employee of a tree trimming company, was attempting to clear an obstruction from a chipper. While attempting to close the disc housing he was struck in the arm and received a serious injury.

DECEMBER 2007

66) Struck By #3 [FATAL]

The deceased was assisting in moving Palmetto trees from a field to a staging area from which they would be placed around a pool at a private residence. The supervisor was operating the backhoe to lift the tree using a choker. The deceased was standing to the right of this and about 4 feet away. As the backhoe moved, it struck a small swale in the ground and the tree began to sway. The deceased ran over to try and steady the tree so it would not strike the fence when the choker slipped off the hook and fell onto the employee. He was transported to the hospital. He had spinal cord injuries and the doctor decided to wait a day or two to operate; however, overnight he developed a vascular problem and died.

67) Struck By Passing Vehicle [FATAL]

The deceased was in a properly marked work safety zone with sign posted "work and lane closure ahead". The flagman had stopped a van so that equipment could back up. The deceased was adding cones around the split dump truck to get ready for lunch when two dump trucks were traveling toward the work area at approximately 70 mph. The first truck started braking approximately 150 feet away but could not stop and hit the chipper and the split dump truck. The deceased tried to jump out of the way, but was struck by the dump truck and dragged approximately 100 feet before coming to a stop. The deceased was lodged under the truck and died at the scene.

68) Employee Struck By Blade Hood on Wood Chipper [FATAL]

An employee was fatally injured when he attempted to close the hinged blade/flywheel hood on a chipper while the device was rotating. The hood contacted the rotating blade causing it to break away from the hinge, striking the employee. The pin which held the hood guard closed was apparently not in place, allowing the hood to open. The employer did not require the use of a padlock to secure the pin in place nor were various free safety upgrades made available by the manufacturer employed.

69) Pinned Down By Tree Branches [Non-FATAL]

An employee was trimming a palm tree approximately 15-feet in height from below. As he pulled the fronds loose they did not fall to the ground because they were interlaced. At some point the weight of the lower fronds pulled the remaining fronds down and pinned him against the tree. He sustained bruises and contusions, and lost consciousness while in the tree. He was hospitalized for 4 days for observation due to some internal bleeding.

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