

Two Tree Lengths Rule



An introduction
to SafetreeTM

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Two Tree Lengths Rule

The two tree lengths rule is designed to keep people not directly involved in falling out of harm's way while a tree faller is working.

What is the Two Tree Lengths Rule?

- ▶ The two tree length rule is a moving exclusion zone that goes wherever the tree faller is falling
- ▶ It is twice the height of the tallest tree in the setting and is measured from the stump of the tree that is being felled – that could be up to 70 metres in a mature stand of pine.

Why Two Tree Lengths?

- ▶ It provides a safety margin in front of the falling tree to keep people clear of debris that may be thrown forwards as the tree falls
- ▶ It takes into consideration the domino effect of the falling tree striking another one in front of it and causing it to fall as well
- ▶ It provides a safety margin if the tree doesn't fall in the direction it was supposed to.

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Who or what is covered by the two tree lengths rule?

- ▶ All other people and activities within the logging area
- ▶ Any visitors at the worksite
- ▶ Structures or access ways in or near the setting, including:
 - ▷ roads and tracks
 - ▷ railway lines
 - ▷ walking tracks
 - ▷ cycle tracks
 - ▷ boundaries
 - ▷ fencelines
 - ▷ gas pipelines
 - ▷ powerlines.

Are there any exemptions to the two tree length rule?

- ▶ Machines can work closer than two tree lengths, but not closer than one tree length unless they are being used to assist in the tree falling operation
 - ▷ Any machinery working within two tree lengths must be equipped with the appropriate guarding, protection structures and safety features
 - ▷ The machine operator must be able to communicate with the faller and observer (industry best practice is by radio telephone)
- ▶ Authorised people can be within one tree length of the falling, such as an observer, trainer or auditor.

The faller's in charge

Whoever you are or whatever your position might be, if you're on a tree faller's worksite, you're under their control unless that control is transferred to another person.

For more information about the two tree lengths rule: ACoP Section 11.4; BPG for Tree Felling.