

Safety Alert: Trees falling on vehicles

Date: August 2022

The risk

Safetree is aware of multiple reports of trees or branches falling on light vehicles. Strong winds, snow, and heavy rain increase the chances of this happening. Conditions can change quickly as storm fronts pass through, so it's important to manage this risk proactively. Tragically there was an industry fatality in similar circumstances in 2018.

Controlling the risk

Park light vehicles in low-risk areas. Depending on the work you are doing, this might be in open areas free from overhead hazards, next to young stands or in sheltered areas.

Remember, the ACOP requires that all hazardous trees within reach of the landing are removed before operations begin. Pay particular attention to trees that are:

- leaning towards the landing
- on the prevailing wind side
- disturbed during landing construction.

If weather conditions deteriorate to a point where work becomes unsafe, suspend operations and come up with a plan that keeps everyone safe. That might include people sheltering where they are or retreating to a safer place. Also be mindful of storm damage getting to and from work. Reduce speed and maintain adequate sight distance ahead.



More info: <https://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Working-in-bad-weather-2018.pdf>

**Post this alert on your workplace noticeboards.
Discuss it at safety or tailgate meetings.**