

26 September 2019

# SAFETY ALERT

## Tree Faller High Risk Work - Individual and Salvage Windthrow Operations



### **Background**

It is that time of year again when the extreme winds are hitting our forest. Please find a few reminders regarding the felling and handling of the damage from the wind that will occur.

**NOTE:** The first option when dealing with windthrown trees is utilizing a machine to fell, bunch and extract. Only competent fallers or those under close supervision can work in windthrown areas.

The following basic procedures must be used when felling **Individually Windthrown Trees and Spars** that will be encountered on a normal day of falling. These trees could be fresh or dated and should be treated as fully tensioned stems:

- Thoroughly assess the site.
- Take a step back, pause and develop a felling plan. Ask the contact person to document significant hazards.
- Assess the individual tree to identify the amount of tension and the direction of any anticipated movement.
- Prepare an adequate work area and escape route – **take the time to ensure that your path and footing will not be hindered.**
- Call into your contact person when starting the felling process.
- Use appropriate cutting techniques for the situation (up-roots, heavy leaners, spars).
- Finish on the safe side, away from any likely stem or root plate movement.
- Move well clear up the escape route and observe from the safest position.
- Do not work below unstable root plates that have already been cut.
- Call into your contact person when the felling of the individual tree has been completed.

**NOTE:** If in any doubt, seek assistance from a machine or another competent faller. Use an observer as required. Don't hesitate to isolate the tree if it cannot be felled or actioned immediately.

**Be Safe, Be Productive, Be Professional**