

**Case 116. 50-year-old independent contractor died from complications sustained at a logging site when a stray branch/falling tree struck him.**

A 50-year-old male independent contractor died from complications sustained at a logging site when a stray branch/falling tree struck him. The decedent worked as an independent contractor during the winter months and was working alone the day of the incident. His neighbor went to check on him because he no longer heard the decedent's saw running. The decedent was found alive near a felled tree, next to a stray branch from the adjacent tree. He was transported to a local hospital. He had no recollection of the incident and there were no witnesses. One possible scenario surmised from evidence at the scene was that the tree he cut down was holding up a stray branch from the adjacent tree; therefore, when the first tree fell, the stray branch fell with it and struck him. The decedent died three weeks from complications of the injuries sustained at the incident site.

MIOSHA did not conduct an investigation of this incident.