

Case 352. 46-year-old male owner of a logging firm died when he was struck by a rotten section of a poplar tree he had just hand felled.

46-year-old male sole owner of a logging firm died when he was struck by a rotten section of a poplar tree he had just hand felled with a Husquavna 395XP chain saw. The poplar tree was approximately 50 feet in length. The upper portion of this tree was dead and extremely rotten. Lying in the stump area were pieces of the tree approximately 5 feet long and 8 inches in diameter. The decedent was wearing a hard hat and safety glasses. A coworker sitting in a processor located approximately 30 feet away witnessed the incident. The coworker indicated that the decedent cut down the tree and took a few steps away from the stump. When the decedent turned to look back at the falling tree he was struck by a section which had broken off and bounced back in his direction, striking his head. Several tree pieces of varying lengths laid to the west of the stump. The work area was congested with trees as logging activities in this area was just commencing.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue any citations at the conclusion of the investigation because the decedent was the sole owner of the firm.