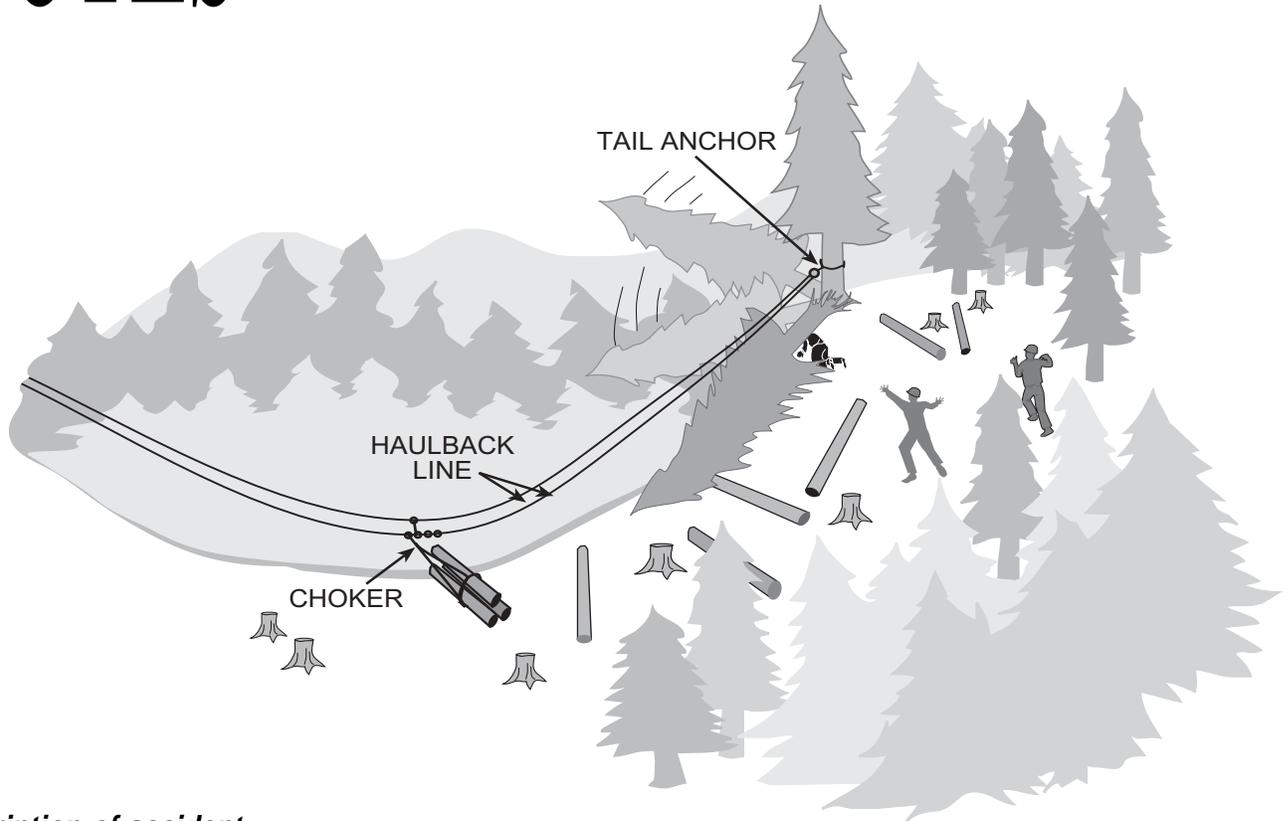


SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97310

Fatality Report

Accident type Struck by
Industry Logging
Employee job title Hook tender



Description of accident

The victim and two crew members had finished rigging a 4-foot-diameter tree to serve as a tail anchor for an overhead skyline logging operation. The victim stayed a few yards away from the tail anchor tree to monitor the anchor's stability. When a crew member called if all members were clear and in a safe area, the victim indicated he was and walked away from the anchor. As other crew members began hoisting cut logs on the skyline's carriage, the anchor tree was pulled over. The victim did not see the falling anchor tree and was struck. The victim received fatal injuries.

Investigation findings

The investigator determined that the skyline anchor had been set correctly, using a tree that was 4 feet in diameter and about 200 feet tall. At the time of the accident, crew members shouted towards the employee to clear the area. Based on the investigator's findings, if the employee had been 20 feet further away from the anchor tree, had been behind the tree, or had walked up the hillside to observe, the hook tender would have been in a safe zone. The ground was very wet from recent rains, which may have contributed to the tree falling unexpectedly.

Applicable standards

No violations of the Oregon Safe Employment Act were identified in the investigation. Ensuring that employees move as far away from anchor trees as possible can prevent similar incidents. Employees who are monitoring an anchor tree should do so from a safe distance and watch the anchor for several turns. Logging crews should always be alert to the potential for anchor failures and should be aware of the skyline and carriage position above them at all times.