

Safety Bulletin



Initial HSE Notification of Fatality of a Tree Surgeon

On the 2nd December 2016 the HSE issued an initial Notification Number 2016/30. At this point in time the details are very limited but the notification states that an incident occurred on 23rd November 2016, where a self-employed tree surgeon, in the age range 35-44 years of age, was sadly killed following a fall from a tree in which he was working. The incident occurred in the North West of the UK.

The incident serves as a timely reminder of some key messages:

1. In tree work, falls from height are the cause of death and major injury.
2. Avoid climbing trees if safer means of access are available, such as mobile elevated work platforms.
3. All tree work involving work at height must be planned and carried out by a Competent Person who has appropriate training in all of the tasks required.
4. All equipment being used must be suitable for the task, and inspected prior to use.

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