

# FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: May 23, 2002

Logging & Wood Products

**A logging employee died as a result of being crushed beneath a falling tree.**

**Description of Accident:** A logging industry employee was found pinched between a log and a live, fallen, hemlock tree. The logging site was littered with downed trees amongst numerous unmarked danger trees stumps, logs, brush, and tree limbs. These trees were leaning in all different directions in the logging area where the victim was found. Even if the victim was aware that the tree was falling, he probably would not have been able to get out of its way due to the lack of an escape route.

## **ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Ensure that employees have a clear exit path when felling trees.
- All danger trees in the working area should be properly marked.
- An employer should have a written safety program which includes enforcement and discipline procedures to ensure that employees follow the employer's safety requirements. The employer should take steps to discover employee violations and document disciplinary action taken.