

# FATALGRAM 14-02

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
Division of Labor & Safety Standards  
Occupational Safety & Health



**Date of incident:** June 12, 2014

**Industry:** Logging

**Location:** 30 Mile Mitkof Highway, Banana Point, Petersburg, Alaska

**Summary:** A journeymen hook tender was struck and killed by a “danger tree” while extracting timber during helicopter logging operations.

**Description of Accident:** A 51 year old male died from injuries sustained when a “danger tree” fell on him pinning him beneath the log while engaged in helicopter logging to extract timber on a steep and rugged slope. Rescue operations were initiated within minutes of incident by using a helicopter to remove the tree from top of victim and then transporting the victim to the nearest hospital where efforts failed to revive him.

## **Accident Prevention Recommendations:**

- Ensure all safety measures are applied prior to initiating the task at hand as stated in logging regulations.
- Ensure that the area where helicopter logging operations will take place is adequately inspected for danger trees and that any danger trees are marked or removed to mitigate hazards.
- Ensure that each employee is adequately trained to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions with regard to hook tending in hazardous conditions and specifically the hazards associated with “danger trees.”
- Establish and implement a safety and health program consisting of daily efforts to demonstrate management commitment and employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.