

Cut-up spar trees left standing in cutover

Background:

Unfortunately we have had a number of examples of cut up spar trees have been left standing around native bush edges during harvest operations. These have only been found during planting activities months later.

This is a very serious breach of Worksafe rules, and has the potential to be exceptionally dangerous for people in future operations such as planting. We do not expect this from professional fallers and contractors.

The ACOP states:

11.6 Hung-up and cut-up trees

11.6.1 A hung-up or cut-up tree shall be brought to the ground immediately or the hazard managed until such time as it can be brought to the ground.

The contractor/faller responsible for leaving these cut up spar trees no longer works in Port Blakely operations.



Learnings from this:

All trees must be brought to the ground immediately, otherwise additional control measures need to be put in place until the tree is on the ground.

This may include excluding anyone from the hazard area using barriers, signage or other communication.

Crews are to discuss what options there are to bring down cut up trees if they don't fall – this will vary depending on the site, terrain, and machinery available.

Trees are to be assessed prior to felling to ensure they can be safely felled. This includes manual and mechanised felling. If there is any doubt then get some additional advice or help.