



## WORKPLACE SAFETY HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

<b>TOPIC</b> <b>WORKER FATALLY HIT BY FALLEN TREE</b>		<b>Reference Number</b> <b>2023/WSHN/03</b>	
<b>Approved by:</b> Director of Compliance and International Affairs Division	<b>Issue date:</b> 03 April 2023	<b>Expiry date:</b> None	<b>Revision No:</b> 1.0

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to remind all principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work to be aware of the risks associated with tree felling works and to take the necessary safety precautions to avoid undesirable incidents. In 2022, there were two (2) fatal incidents caused by the consequences of tree felling works. Though only one of them was classified as a workplace accident, there were common safety issues identified in both cases that led to such fatal incidents.

### What is “Tree Felling Work”?

“Tree Felling Work” is when a standing tree or a tree leaning against another tree is felled with the help of equipment such as a chainsaw, an axe or machete (parang) and laid down in the desired place. The removal of branches from standing or fallen trees, including but not limited to cutting to suitable lengths, is defined as “delimiting”.

The tree felling and delimiting work can involve significant hazards and risks and may lead to undesirable incidents such as serious bodily injury and even death. Therefore, the work requires proper planning and application of appropriate safety measures, which must be conducted by competent persons only.

### What are the common issues?

In light of the above two incidents, the Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to draw the attention of everyone to the following common issues that contribute to the occurrence of hazards and risks in any workplace:

- Inadequate work plans and lack of specific safe work procedure;
- Lack of safety training;
- Lack of risk assessment;
- Working alone while carrying out risky work;
- Lack of supervision; and
- Ineffective emergency response plan including first aid and rescue.



**Tree Felling Activity with Appropriate Equipment & PPE**  
(Source: Google)

All principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work are hereby reminded to comply at all times with the Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009 and its regulations. The law ensures that those who create the risk reduce those risks to persons (employees and public), assets and the environment, to As Low As is Reasonably Practicable (ALARP).

Should there be any questions concerning this Workplace Safety and Health Notice please do not hesitate to contact SHENA at +673 238 2000 or email [info@shena.gov.bn](mailto:info@shena.gov.bn) SHENA would like to thank all stakeholders for their cooperation in ensuring Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.

**END**