



Zero Fatalities  
Zero Lost Time  
Zero Road/Speed Incidents  
Zero Environmental Incidents  
Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 29

<b>Date:</b> 23 July 2020	<b>Focus Group:</b> Waste Thinning
<b>Topic:</b> Working with Hung-up Trees	<b>Issued by:</b> Nic Steens

**Background and Incident:** A waste thinner felled a cull tree onto a standing crop tree, which has subsequently hung-up. The thinner opted to remove the hang-up using the posting method, which caused the stem to break and fall backward on to him.

**Injury Details:** Suspected fractured rib; precautionary hospitalisation – Notifiable LTI.

**Risk Awareness:** A hang-up can fall in any direction! One of the [seven harms](#) ‘attempting to bring down a hang-up’ is the leading cause of injuries in tree felling.

**Safe Behaviours:** The very best thinners have few trees that hang-up. They have learnt that a descent scarf and managing the hinge affords the momentum required to move trees through gaps or to carefully roll them off neighbouring crop trees. Nonetheless, there are three recognised methods used to bring down hang-ups in thinning – brushing, driving, or posting. Posting is the cutting away of short sections from the bottom of the hung-up tree until it is safely on the ground. It is a safe method providing thinners remain aware of the way a tree will respond to the cuts they plan and make. These cuts should always move the ‘post’ and the ‘remaining stem’ away from the thinner. Additionally, given the increase in risk, posting will sometime require an observer. Skilled and patient thinners will call in an observer to help them make a plan and monitor the hang-up for any surprise movements.

**For Site Manager use** (print this document and then complete):

This safety alert is relevant to my site? Yes or No (circle one). If yes, complete the following actions:

1. This safety alert has been discussed with employees and operators
2. I have placed this safety alert on the site notice board or in the safety file

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

**Date:** / /