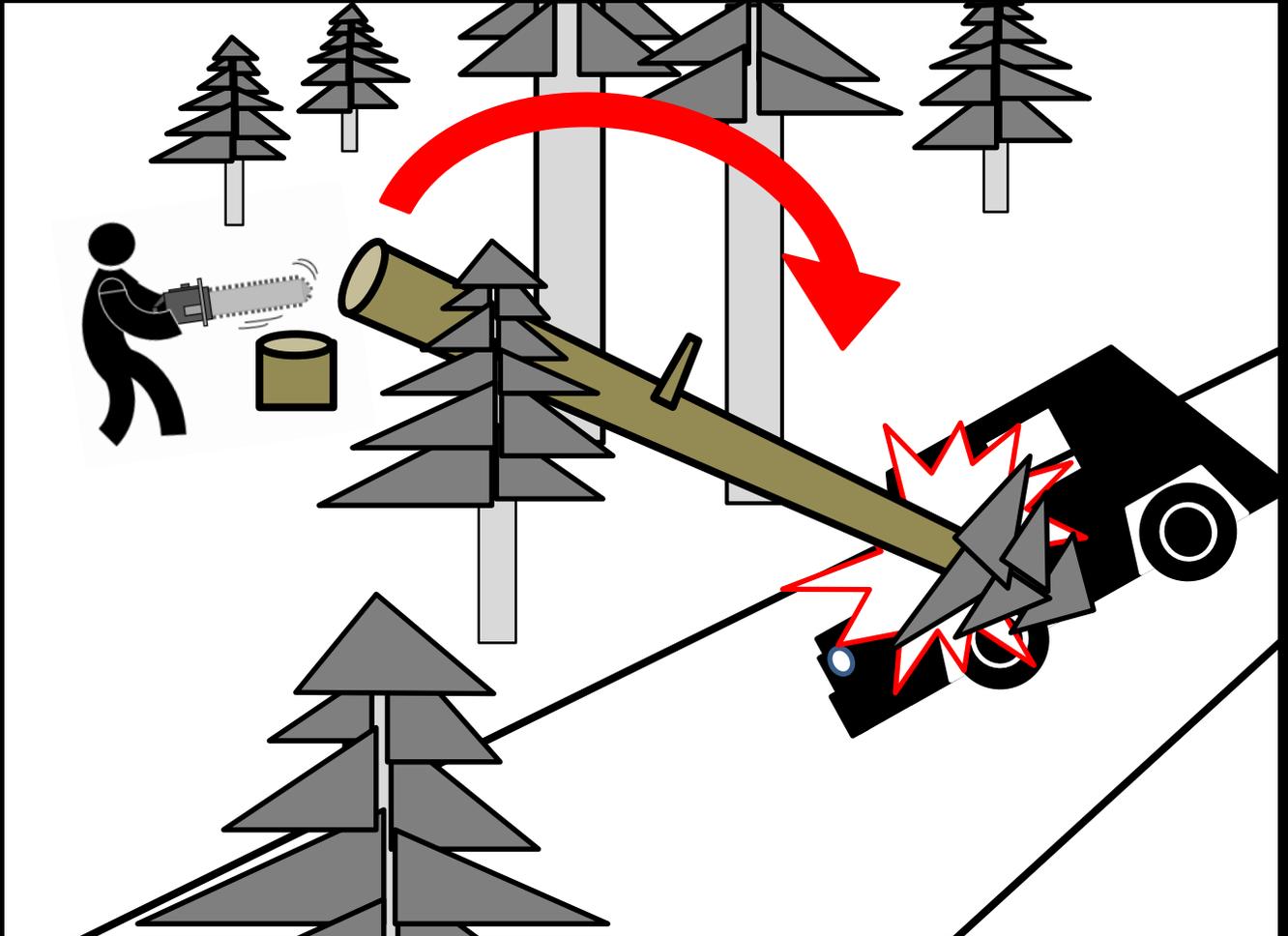


FATAL HAZARD



- **Inspect worksites for potential hazards.**
- **Control traffic with flagging, signage, and road closures.**
- **Get trained in and practice safe tree falling.**
- **Communicate with fallers and equipment operators for work location updates.**

Forestry Worker Killed in Vehicle from Tree Falling Activity

INSTRUCTIONS: Hold the guide with this side facing you and the other side facing your crew. Then read the story.

Our safety talk today is about a 55-year-old log quality specialist with 30 years experience working in forests who was killed when her vehicle was struck by a tree. Her vehicle was struck when she was driving on a road in an active falling area where a tree faller was working uphill from the road. The area was densely forested and it is not likely the faller or log quality specialist saw each other. A combination of contributing factors included: no advance warning of tree falling activities ahead; inadequate communication among workers from multiple employers in the area (some of whom did not have functional radios); and unsafe cuts that allowed the tree to fall into the road.



The log quality specialist died at the scene of traumatic head and neck injury.

So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.

- Conduct pre-work inspections to identify and report hazards to someone who can correct them.
- Control traffic in active falling areas to protect workers as well as the general public driving on the road.
- Use flaggers and keep warning signs up to date and in place in advance of all hazards.
- Receive training on safely bucking logs and cutting trees of different types, sizes, and site conditions. Ask for help if you need it.
- Make sure traffic controllers, fallers, and equipment operators regularly communicate.

ASK: “Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?”

Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.

END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).

- “Have we assessed our site conditions to identify and prevent potential hazards?”
- “Have we planned for and put flaggers or warning signs in place, or set up road closures, in advance of any hazards?”
- “Does anyone have ideas for improving our safety communication systems?”
- Discuss a similar situation at your current worksite or at a past site.
- Express your commitment to train and observe to ensure proper cutting practices.
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk.