



# TREE TRIMMER KILLED!

## PULLED THROUGH WOOD CHIPPER

In a recent incident, a 33-year-old tree trimmer, Matt A.\*, died while he was chipping tree branches and lost his balance or his gloves were caught in the feed rollers. He was pulled through the machine. Matt was standing in front of the opening to the hopper feeding in small branches when the incident occurred.

### WHAT WENT WRONG?

Matt was unable to reach the safety stop bar.

Matt was too close to the feed rollers.

There was no one immediately available to help.

### WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Stand to the side of the chipper when feeding in material.

Use a long branch or stick to push in small branches.

Have at least two workers for each chipper.

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them.

For complete fatality reports of this case (00CA010), or other cases, and additional information on the California FACE program, please contact:  
California Department of Public Health  
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804  
(510) 620-5757  
[California FACE Program's website \(www.cdph.ca.gov/face\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/face)  
CA Relay Service: 711 or (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)

To obtain a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact OHB at (510) 620-5757. Allow at least 10 days to coordinate alternate format services.

\* Not the victim's real name

# PLEASE POST

California Department of Public Health  
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, CA 94804

**FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation."** The purpose of the **FACE** program is to identify hazards that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them. **FACE** is a program run by the Occupational Health Branch within the California Department of Public Health, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State of California  
Kimberly Belshé, Secretary  
Health and Human Services Agency  
Mark B. Horton, Director  
Department of Public Health  
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