

# Occupational Health and Safety

# Fatality Report

**Worker Pinned By Feller Buncher**  
**Date of Incident: January 6, 2007**  
**Type of Incident: Fatal**

Alberta 

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**Section 1.0 DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT**

1.1 January 6, 2007 at approximately 7:10 p.m.

**Section 2.0 NAME & ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL STAKEHOLDER(S)**

**2.1 Owner(s)**

2.1.1 1114374 Alberta Ltd.  
Box 6684  
Bonnyville, Alberta  
T9N 2H2

**2.2 Prime Contractor**

2.2.1 Not applicable

**2.3 Employer**

2.3.1 M F Contractors Ltd.  
Box 7788  
Bonnyville, Alberta  
T9N 2J1

**Section 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL STAKEHOLDER(S)**

**3.1 Owner**

3.1.1 1114374 Alberta Ltd. is a small logging company based in Bonnyville Alberta. They were the timber permit holder for the lease where the incident occurred.

**3.2 Employer**

3.2.1 M F Contractors Ltd. is a small trucking and logging company based in Bonnyville Alberta.

**Section 4.0 LOCATION OF INCIDENT**

4.1 The incident occurred approximately 30 km northeast of Cold Lake at LSD 8-3-66-3 W4.

## **Section 5.0 EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL INVOLVED**

### **5.1 Feller Buncher**

5.1.1 The feller buncher involved in this incident was manufactured by John Deere. The model number was 693C and the serial number was DW693CA512515. A feller buncher is a track driven piece of equipment with a vertical boom that uses hydraulic arms to secure a tree. It then uses a cutting wheel at the base of the vertical boom to remove the tree from the stump (Attachment "A", Photograph 2).

### **5.2 Low Bed Trailer**

5.2.1 The low bed trailer involved in this incident was manufactured by Willock and was a 1978 model.

## **Section 6.0 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

6.1 At approximately 6:30 p.m. on January 6, 2007 two workers arrived at a wooded section of land to prepare for timber removal from the land. The timber removal was slated to begin around January 8, 2007 with the use of a feller buncher.

6.2 Both workers removed the chains holding the feller buncher on the low bed trailer. After that task was completed, Worker 1 entered the cab of the feller buncher in preparation to drive it off the low bed trailer.

6.3 Worker 1 drove the unit off the passenger side of the low bed trailer and onto the ground where he stopped the unit. Worker 2 remained in the immediate area while this occurred. Both workers then gathered some of the hold down chains hanging off the side of the low bed trailer and placed them back on the trailer.

6.4 Worker 1 and Worker 2 then had a brief conversation about the placement of the feller buncher for the night and turning the truck and trailer around in order to exit the area. Worker 1 re-entered the cab of the feller buncher while Worker 2 was still positioned in the immediate area.

6.5 As Worker 1 started to drive away from the low bed trailer, he pinned Worker 2 against the trailer with the rear of the feller buncher. After travelling a distance of approximately 22 m, Worker 1 shut off the machine, exited the cab and began walking back towards the truck and trailer.

6.6 When Worker 1 was approximately 10 m from the trailer, he observed Worker 2 lying on the ground in distress. Worker 1 then telephoned family members for assistance and began transporting the injured Worker 2 to the hospital in a pick-up truck. An ambulance met the pick-up truck on the way to hospital in Cold Lake.

Worker 2 was transported by ambulance to Cold Lake Hospital where he died from his injuries.

## **Section 7.0 ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The direct cause of the fatal injuries Worker 2 received was a result of being pinned between the low bed trailer and the feller buncher (Attachment “A”, Photograph 4).
- 7.2 After arriving on location, the two workers, who were brothers, agreed to off-load the feller buncher from the low bed trailer and park it a short distance from the low bed trailer.
- 7.3 Worker 1 entered the cab of the feller buncher and drove the feller buncher (perpendicularly) off the passenger side of the low bed trailer. While using the boom on the Feller buncher, Worker 1 lowered the unit to the ground where it remained. Worker 1 then left the cab of the unit to assist Worker 2 with the tie-down chains.
- 7.4 According to Worker 1, both he and Worker 2 picked up some tie-down chains and placed them on the deck of the low bed trailer. This was accomplished after the feller buncher was on the ground close to the low bed trailer. Worker 1 and Worker 2 respectively agreed to move the feller buncher forward to a nearby location for the night and turn the truck and trailer around in order to exit the area.
- 7.5 Worker 1 re-entered the cab of the feller buncher and Worker 2, for reasons unknown, entered the swing clearance area between the counterweight on the rear of the feller buncher and the low bed trailer (Attachment “A”, Photograph 4). When Worker 1 raised the vertical boom off the ground to move the feller buncher forward, Worker 2 was pinned against the low bed trailer as the machine deck of the feller buncher rotated and reduced the swing clearance area where Worker 2 was located.
- 7.6 Worker 1 moved the feller buncher forward a distance of approximately 22 m and parked the unit. Worker 1 proceeded to walk back to the low bed trailer where he observed the seriously injured Worker 2 on the ground next to the low bed trailer. Unaware as to what just occurred, Worker 1 asked Worker 2 why he was on the ground. Worker 2 could only state that “I got pinned” but did not state how.
- 7.7 There was no discussion between the workers regarding the hazard of the swing area between the counterweight of the feller buncher and the low bed trailer. There was no hazard assessment performed for the work site by either employer.

**Section 8.0 APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

- 8.1 Occupational Health and Safety Code, Section 258(1) and (3) Dangerous movement
- 8.1.1 1114374 Alberta Ltd. did not ensure Worker 2 would remain away from the reduced swing area when the feller buncher moved from its location after being off loaded from the low bed trailer. No action was taken by 1114374 Alberta Ltd. to ensure that Worker 2 maintained a safe clearance distance from the feller buncher.

**Section 9.0 FOLLOW-UP / ACTION TAKEN**

- 9.1 **Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry**
- 9.1.1 A stop use order was issued to 1114374 Alberta Ltd. for the feller buncher as the unit's operating condition did not meet its manufacturer's specifications. 1114374 Alberta Ltd. was also ordered to develop a control measure to ensure workers remained in a safe location when powered mobile equipment was moved or off-loaded.
- 9.2 **Industry**
- 9.2.1 1114374 Alberta Ltd. complied with the orders issued to them.
- 9.3 **Additional Measures**
- 9.3.1 Not applicable at this time.

**Section 10.0 SIGNATURES**

<u>ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED</u> Investigator	_____
	Date
<u>ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED</u> Investigator	_____
	Date
<u>ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED</u> Manager	_____
	Date
<u>ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED</u> Acting Senior Manager, North	_____
	Date

**Section 11.0 ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment "A"      Photographs



Photograph #1 Identifies the rear of the low bed trailer and a partial view of the feller buncher located north of the low bed trailer.



Photograph #2 Identifies the feller buncher involved in the incident. The top arrow identifies the hydraulic arms, used to secure a tree and the lower arrow indicates the circular saw used to cut the tree off at ground level.



Photograph #3 Identifies the feller buncher after it was moved away from the low bed trailer.



Photograph #4 The arrow identifies the contact location between the feller buncher and the low bed trailer where worker 1 sustained his fatal injuries.



Photograph #5 Identifies the front portion of the feller buncher as the unit is positioned next to the low bed trailer.