



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Pacific
Southwest
Region**

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Date: February 23, 2004

Route To:

Subject: Hazard Tree Awareness

To: Forest Supervisors

Last summer an employee was killed by a falling snag. The accident investigation revealed the employee had never been trained in identifying hazard trees. The Board of Review determined there was a need to insure that ALL employees working in the field have basic hazard tree awareness training. To aid you in accomplishing this task I asked John Pronos, Plant Pathologist, Forest Health Protection on the Stanislaus National Forest to work with Paul Chamberlin, National Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, MT, to develop a short power point presentation to teach employees how to recognize a potentially hazardous tree.

Your Forest Safety Officers saw the presentation at the Regional Safety Conference this past January, and were given a copy of the power point. It is my desire that you use this power point, or the equivalent, to train ALL field going employees in basic hazard tree identification. I expect this training to be accomplished and logged into the TIPS database by July 1, 2004. If you need assistance in teaching the class, contact my Regional Safety Manager, Dave Poucher, and he will schedule time to help you meet this training requirement. In the future, I would like this training to become an ongoing part of your New Employee Orientation.

/s/ Gilbert J. Espinosa (for)
JACK A. BLACKWELL
Regional Forester

