






# Felling Operations and Tree Analysis Job Aid

This job aid is designed to ensure a safe felling operation and assist in tree assessment on the fireline.

## Felling Operations Safety

The following table provides guidance to help ensure safe felling operations.

Action	Accountable For
<b>Communicate with Resources</b> 	Communicate with all applicable resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When a felling operation is needed.</li><li>• The planned direction or lay of the tree to be felled.</li><li>• Where they should congregate to avoid the falling tree.</li><li>• When the felling operation is complete.</li><li>• When the scene is secure.</li></ul>
<b>Secure the Felling Area</b> 	Secure the felling area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all resources are at least 2.5 times the height of the tree away, considering slope in all directions.</li><li>• Establish guards on roads, trails, and/or the fireline around the felling area.</li><li>• Confirm that guards have reliable communication with the Faller, FELB, and other resources adjacent to the felling area.</li><li>• Before allowing other resources to access the area, ensure no hazards remain (i.e., hangups, unstable logs, or other dangers).</li></ul>
<b>Establish an Evacuation Plan</b> 	Establish an evacuation plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure you have a plan in place for your location.</li><li>• Continually assess the evacuation plan.</li><li>• Familiarize yourself with the Medical Plan and Medical Incident Report (ICS 206 WF), <a href="https://www.nwcg.gov/ics-forms">https://www.nwcg.gov/ics-forms</a>.</li></ul>

## Tree Analysis

The following table provides guidance on how to analyze hazard trees.

Topic	Details
<b>Overall Tree Considerations</b>	Examine the overall tree and determine if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It poses a hazard to resources.</li> <li>• Resources cannot work safely under or in its vicinity.</li> <li>• It could threaten the fire containment line.</li> </ul>
<b>Tree Stem or Bole</b>	Examine tree stems or boles for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cat faces.</li> <li>• Cracks.</li> <li>• Knot holes with visible heat or smoke.</li> <li>• Broken or dead tops.</li> <li>• Loose bark.</li> <li>• Visible smoke or heat waves.</li> <li>• Codominant stems, split tops, or forked tops.</li> <li>• Insect damage or holes in stem.</li> <li>• Fungus, conks, or evidence of rot.</li> </ul>
<b>Tree Canopy</b>	Examine the tree canopy for overhead hazards including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanging branches.</li> <li>• Loose tops.</li> <li>• Broken tops.</li> </ul>
<b>Root Integrity</b>	Determine tree stability by identifying roots that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burnt.</li> <li>• Severed.</li> <li>• Shallow.</li> <li>• Exposed.</li> </ul>
<b>Snags</b>	Examine the tree for indicators that it is dead or dying, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of foliage or discolored foliage.</li> <li>• Loose or missing bark.</li> <li>• Discolored tree stem or bole.</li> </ul>
<b>Hang Up Tree(s)</b>	Examine hang up trees to determine if they are secure. Assess the supporting tree.