



Zero Harm Hazard Alert

Strong and Gusty winds

Hazard

September reporting indicates that one third of contractor near miss reports have a significant contribution from strong winds. These winds have caused:

- trees to be blown over
- difficulties with controlling trees being felled
- damage to machinery from stems and limbs falling in the bush
- damage to vehicles from limbs falling over roads.

It is important for us all to be aware of this risk, and with stormy conditions likely in the coming months to be aware of the hazard.

Action

Some suggested precautions include:

- review the location of retained trees to ensure they are not near safe areas, or areas of high foot traffic on coupes (including landings, car parks, smoko areas)
- review wind conditions when falling trees (especially hand falling).
- review potentially hazardous trees near gates or road bunting.

Record any hazard assessments and decisions made. Discuss these at a toolbox meeting.

*Trees outside of active coupes cannot be removed without approval from VicForests.

Please discuss any concerns or issues with your forester.

