

Accident Briefs compiled for accidents occurring January through **November 2020**

Published in TCI Magazine March 2020 through ...January 2021****
(accidents generally occurring at least 4 weeks prior to issue month)

(In descending order)

All items taken from published reports or reported directly to TCIA staff, as noted.

January 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the March 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine **Tree worker killed in struck-by**

A man working for a tree-trimming company was killed January 8, 2020, in Bloomingdale, Ohio, while performing right-of-way clearance.

Brian J. Nitz, 53, of Middleport, Ohio, was working with a crew cutting a large ash tree on a bank. The tree had been notched and was being pulled. But when the tree broke free, the butt of the tree fell, bounced off the ground and struck Nitz in the head, according to a report in *The Herald Star*.

Man injured by loader while felling tree

A school worker was injured when he was run over by a front-end loader while clearing trees for a path January 13, 2020, in Hunting Valley, Ohio.

The victim, a 54-year-old man from Chardon, Ohio, and a fellow staffer were clearing trees for a new path between athletic fields and a fish-hatchery pond.

At one point the victim, who was using a tractor, left the vehicle to cut up a log with a chain saw. The victim left the Kubota MX5200 lodged against the tree, but left it in neutral. As the tree was being cut, the tractor started to roll backward.

The driver tried to jump back onto the moving tractor but slipped, and his right foot got caught underneath the left-front wheel. The continued momentum of the tractor trapped his leg, and the tire progressively ran up over his right leg to the knee, where the tractor came to rest.

Another worker arrived on the scene several minutes later and put the tractor in a forward gear, freeing the victim before the rescue squad arrived and took him to Hillcrest Hospital.

There were no immediate signs of any mechanical problems with the tractor, according to a report in *The Plain Dealer*.

Climber rescued from spar

A climber was rescued January 15, 2020, in Charlotte, North Carolina, after injuring his hand and getting stuck 40 feet above the ground on a spar. It took about 26 minutes and 18 firefighters to get the patient to the ground. The tree worker was expected to be OK, according to a WCNC NBC Charlotte report.

Operator knocked from bucket in struck-by

An aerial-lift operator for a tree-trimming service was hurt January 15, 2020, in Wayne, Pennsylvania, after a branch snapped, hitting him and knocking him from the lift's basket.

The man, 34, was secured by his harness but was hit by the branch a second time before being lowered safely to the ground.

The victim, who was able to speak with first responders and never lost consciousness, was taken to a local hospital, according to a Main Line Media News report.

Climber hurt in fall with palm

A climber working 30 feet up a palm inside a hotel in San Diego, California, was injured January 23, 2020, when the tree uprooted and fell over with him tied to it.

Workers were removing several caryota palms at the Embassy Suites by Hilton San Diego-La Jolla. The worker was lowering a trimmed piece of the tree to other workers when the caryota palm, also known as a fishtail palm, began to slowly uproot and tip over.

The worker sustained a broken leg, broken arm and cuts to his face. He was treated at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla and released.

The worker was tied into the tree properly and was wearing all of his safety equipment, according to a report in *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Tree worker killed unloading compact lift

A tree worker was killed January 23, 2020, in Shreveport, Louisiana, while trying to remove a compact lift from a trailer that had gone off the road.

The lift was on a trailer attached to a tree truck. The trailer had slipped into a ditch off the side of the road, causing it to be out of level. Jose Paramo, 45, of Bossier City, La., was using the lift's remote control to move the lift off the trailer. He became pinned underneath the lift when it slid sideways off the ramp.

Police and at least one other member of the tree crew used two floor jacks to raise the lift off Paramo. First responders administered aid and performed CPR before taking Paramo to Ochsner LSU Health hospital, where he later died, according to a KTBS 3 ABC report.

Woman injured in fall from tree

A woman was seriously injured when she fell from a tree she was apparently working in January 25, 2020, in Bing, Oklahoma.

The extent of the woman's injuries were not immediately known, but reports indicated multiple traumas. At one point officials said the victim lost consciousness.

A ladder and cutting tools were visible at the scene, indicating the victim might have been working on the tree, according to a report in *The Ada News*.

Tree worker killed in struck-by

A tree worker was killed while felling a tree January 27, 2020, in Mill Valley, California.

Edgar Martin Ramos Martinez, 37, a native of Guatemala who was living in San Rafael, Calif., was removing trees on behalf of a homeowners' association. He was in the process of cutting a 100-foot-tall, 3- to 4-foot-diameter eucalyptus tree when it came crashing down. The tree hit two other trees, the second of which is believed to have had a shallow root system. That tree toppled over and struck Martinez.

Martinez suffered traumatic injuries to his head and body and was immediately rendered unconscious and unresponsive. First responders found Martinez in cardiopulmonary arrest, and paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Bay City News* and other published reports.

Tree worker dies of head injury

A tree worker suffered a head injury and died January 31, 2020, in North Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Kevin Pimental, 38, of East Falmouth, was trimming a tree when he suffered a head injury. He was taken to Falmouth Hospital, where he later died from his injuries, according to a *Cape Cod Times* report.

Pimental was in a tree trimming it when he fell and suffered the head injury, according to a WXTK News Radio report.

February 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the April 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

Climber killed in struck-by

A climber died after suffering a head injury while cutting limbs February 3, 2020, in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The Wichita Falls Police and Fire Departments found Michael Bragg, 51, unconscious, hanging by his waist from a rope 30 to 40 feet up in the tree. Bragg apparently had been rigging/roping down tree sections.

Officers were able to confirm that he had passed away from his injuries. The cause of death was severe head trauma, according to a News Channel 6 report.

Man injured cutting tree

A man was injured in a struck-by incident while cutting a tree February 5, 2020, in Bourne, Massachusetts.

The injured man was taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth, Mass. His condition was not included in the *Cape Cod Times* report.

Worker hurt in crash with ambulance

A tree worker was hurt when a city ambulance was involved in a crash with a large tree truck February 15, 2020, in Kailua, Hawaii.

The ambulance was responding to a call with lights and sirens on at the time of the crash. Two people were in the tree-trimming truck. The driver, a man in his 50s, was taken to the hospital in stable condition. The other occupant was treated at the scene. The paramedic and emergency medical technician in the ambulance were not hurt, according to a *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* report.

Carol Kwan, Certified Arborist and president of Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC, based in Mililani, Hawaii, sent in this report.

Man injured in struck-by

A man was injured when he was struck by part of a tree while cutting firewood February 17, 2020, in Center Township, Pennsylvania. No other details were available from the *Butler Eagle* report.

Man dies after trapped by palm fronds

A man died February 24, 2020, while trying to trim a palm in Fresno, California.

The unidentified victim was attempting to trim the palm fronds and became trapped when they collapsed on top of him. He was in full cardiac arrest after being freed.

The victim was transported to the hospital and later succumbed to his injuries, according to a KGPE CBS47 report.

Tree worker injured in struck-by

A tree worker was injured February 28, 2020, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, when he was hit in the head by a tree that was cut or knocked down.

The victim was part of a crew removing several trees in a rail yard at the time of the incident.

The victim was flown to a trauma center for treatment of injuries that were not believed to be life threatening, according to a WCVB Channel 5 report

March 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the May 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

Tree Worker Hurt in Assault on the Job

Two men were arrested March 1, 2020, and charged in connection with an attack on a tree worker February 29, 2020, in Colfax, California.

The incident, which Placer County Sheriff's deputies said might have been racially motivated, involved a person being held against a tree-trimming trailer, berated and hit over the head with a pole saw.

Authorities said two white men pulled up in front of a tree-trimming crew before approaching, berating and insulting the foreman. Deputies said one man grabbed the victim and held his face against the tree-trimming trailer while the other hit the victim in the back of the head with a pole saw, injuring the victim.

The two men then drove off in a silver pickup truck, with one of the men trying to hide the license plate as the other drove away.

No update on the extent of the victim's injuries was included in the ABC1 report.

Man seriously injured by cut trees

A man cutting trees on private property suffered serious injuries March 1, 2020, in McHenry Township, Illinois, when he became trapped beneath two fallen trees.

Some neighbors with chain saws removed the trees before the local fire district's arrival.

The man was flown via Flight for Life to Advocate Condell Medical Center, according to a *Northwest Herald* report.

One injured when tree truck overturns in crash

One person was injured when a tree-service truck overturned after a crash March 12, 2020, near Stuart, in Indian River County, Florida.

The truck, which was a log truck with a loader mounted behind the cab, and a pickup were involved in the crash. No other details on the person injured were included in the Treasure Coast Newspapers and tcpalm.com report.

Resident injured when tree dropped on house

A tree being removed by a tree-service company fell on a house March 14, 2020, in Peoria, Illinois, causing major damage and injuring a resident.

Firefighters say the injured person was on the porch of the home when a large section of a tree fell on the house. The victim was treated at the scene and then transported to a local hospital, according to a WMBD TV report.

Tree worker dies in ATV crash

A tree worker died March 16, 2020, in Forestville, California, after losing control of the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) he was operating.

David Romero Mendoza, 31, of Modesto, Calif., was part of a tree-clearing crew working on the property when he lost control of the ATV and overturned, according to a report in *The Press Democrat*.

Tree worker electrocuted

A tree worker cutting trees died March 18, 2020, in Alamo, California, after coming into contact with live power lines.

While cutting a tree, Gregorio Galvez Avalos, 25, touched electrified wires either with equipment or his body and was electrocuted.

San Ramon Valley firefighters attempted to revive him, but he was pronounced dead, according to an *East Bay Times* report.

Man pinned and killed by cut tree

A man was killed March 26, 2020, in Lorraine, New York, when a tree he was cutting down on his property fell on top of him.

State police responding to the residence found Patrick D. Bates, 57, pinned underneath a 60-foot tree. Bates was declared dead at the scene.

An investigation revealed that Bates had been cutting the tree down with a chain saw when the tree kicked back toward him, struck him and pinned him underneath, according to a report in *The Post-Standard*.

Man breaks leg in fall from tree

A man cutting tree limbs March 28, 2020, at a home in Mansfield, Massachusetts, broke his leg when he fell from the tree. The man, in his 60s, fell about 15 feet.

The victim was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton, according to a report in *The Sun Chronicle*.

April 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the June 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

Bucket operator hurt after lift struck by falling crane

An operator of a truck-mounted aerial lift suffered a back injury April 2, 2020, in Beloit, Wisconsin, when a boom truck tipped over and its boom struck the aerial-lift truck, knocking the operator out of the bucket.

The boom truck tipped over while lifting a large section of a tree, causing it to fall on top of the bucket truck. The injured bucket operator was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, according to News 3 Now/Channel3000.com and vertikal.net reports.

Climber injured after cutting line with handsaw

A climber was seriously injured while trimming a tree April 3, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri, when he severed his climbing line with a handsaw and fell 30 to 40 feet.

The climber was attempting to pull a cut branch that had hung up between other branches. He pulled forcibly on the branch with his handsaw, cutting teeth up. When the saw slipped off the branch, it contacted the climbing line, almost completely severing it. Before the climber could react, the line severed completely and the climber fell. He sustained broken bones in his wrist and ankle, according to a report related directly to TCIA staff.

Man injured cutting storm-damaged tree

A homeowner suffered multiple broken bones in his lower extremities while attempting to remove a storm-damaged tree April 3, 2020, in Boomer, North Carolina.

Robert Royal, of Millers Creek, N.C., was cutting down a dead white pine with a chain saw when the tree, which had a circumference of about 24 inches at chest height, unexpectedly fell and struck him.

The dead pine tree was among several damaged by a tornado that hit in late October 2017.

Wilkes Emergency Medical Services transported Royal to the Boomer Fire Station, where a Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Air Care helicopter landed to transport Royal to Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem, according to a *Wilkes Journal-Patriot* report.

Homeowner killed by cut tree

A homeowner was killed while cutting down a tree April 4, 2020, in Russia, Ohio.

Randall Marchal, 64, of Russia, died when the tree he was cutting down kicked back and fell in the opposite direction from what he was expecting. Marchal, who was with two family members when the accident happened, was pinned under the tree after it struck him in the head.

Marchal was pronounced dead, and his body was transported to the coroner's office for an autopsy, according to a *Sidney Daily News* report.

Man killed in struck-by

A man was killed April 4, 2020, near Warrenton, Pennsylvania, when he was struck on the head by a large branch while cutting down trees.

Robert Cavanaugh, 49, of the Barbour area of Lycoming County, Pa., was found by his wife in a wooded section on a farm along Hocker Road, west of Warrenton.

Cavanaugh had gone into the woods about 9 a.m., and his wife went looking for him when he did not return home. He was pronounced dead from head trauma at 3:55 p.m., according to a report from *The Patriot-News* and PennLive.com.

Line-clearance worker injured by falling rock

A line-clearance worker was struck and injured by a falling rock while working April 6, 2020, near Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The incident happened close to Route 340, between the Virginia and West Virginia border.

The man was cutting a tree near a power line when a falling rock hit him.

Rescue crews determined the worker's injuries were not serious enough for him to be airlifted, according to a WDVN and localdvn.com report.

Climber rescued after being cut with chain saw

Firefighters rescued a tree climber who had cut himself with a chain saw April 8, 2020, near Lake Mary, in Seminole County, Florida.

The tree worker, a man in his 20s, was about 35 feet up in an oak tree when he sustained a laceration from his chain saw. A second tree worker remained on the scene after the one in the tree injured himself, assisting until firefighters arrived.

The oak tree was in the backyard of a large property with insufficient space for aerial-apparatus fire equipment. The first firefighters on the scene quickly assessed the challenges and called for a tower truck with a 35-foot extension ladder. They extended the ladder to reach the injured worker.

Ropes were used to establish a lowering system and a safety line. A high point was established and a harness was placed on the climber, and he was lowered to the ground safely. He was then taken to Central Florida Regional Hospital in Sanford in stable condition, according to a Spectrum News 13 report.

Homeowner killed by cut tree

A homeowner died April 13, 2020, in Lamont, Iowa, when the tree he was cutting split and fell, striking him.

Ray Donald Welter, 82, of Lamont, was taking down a tree with a chain saw. As he cut through the trunk, the tree split.

He was taken to Regional Medical Center in Manchester, where he was pronounced dead, according to a report in *The Courier*.

Trimmer rescued from palm

A man was rescued from a palm April 15, 2020, in Tucson, Arizona, after becoming trapped in collapsed fronds.

First responders with the Tucson Fire Department found the man trapped several feet up in the palm in the backyard of a home. Using an aluminum extension ladder to reach the victim, they were able to quickly free the man and transported him to a local hospital with undetermined injuries, according to a KVOA News4 Tucson report.

Man suffers chain-saw injury

A man volunteering to cut trees for tornado victims April 19, 2020, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was injured when a branch he cut sprang back, knocking the chain saw he was using into his leg.

The man was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

This incident was reported directly to TCIA by Daniel J. Wysong, co-owner and company administrator of Wysong Tree Service, LLC, a TCIA member company based in Chattanooga, Tenn. It happened in the vicinity of one of the jobs his crews were working on, and one of his crew members sent him the photo on page 66.

Homeowner killed by cut tree

A property owner died April 22, 2020, in Grant Park, Illinois, when a tree he was cutting down in a field fell on him.

Peter J. Chapin, 68, of Momence, Ill., was discovered at 7:34 p.m. by an acquaintance who noticed Chapin's truck was still parked at a nearby structure. The man said Chapin usually left between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day, so he thought it odd that his truck was still there.

Chapin was found underneath several branches with a chain saw nearby. It appeared he tried to get out of the way of the falling tree, which was rotted at the base. He was pronounced dead at the scene, according to a *Daily Journal* report.

Climber rescued after struck-by

A climber suffered a significant head injury while doing work 30 to 40 feet up in an oak tree April 25, 2020, in East Hampton, New York.

The man was described as a landscaper performing tree work. He was wearing a rope safety system that stopped him from falling when he was hit in the head by a large branch he had cut. His fellow workers on the ground called 911.

From the ground, first responders could see that the man, who was semi-conscious and slumped over, was bleeding. As he started to regain consciousness, he began fumbling around, and first responders feared he was going to disconnect himself from the safety rope. They tried to shout out some simple commands in Spanish, as the man only spoke Spanish.

The East Hampton Fire Department used its tower ladder to reach the man. The ladder, which can extend up to 100 feet, hoisted two firefighters and a paramedic up in the enclosed platform to assess the man's condition and bring him down. Since he was still able to move his legs, they moved him inside the bucket and then disconnected his safety lines.

Emergency medical-service personnel treated the man and then transported him to the airport in East Hampton, where a Suffolk County medical-evacuation unit was waiting to fly him to Stony Brook University Hospital, the closest level-one trauma center, according to a report in *The Independent*.

May 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the July 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

This first incident occurred in April but was missed in last month's summary.

Worker killed in chipper incident

A chipper operator died on the job after an incident April 27, 2020, in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Tanner M. Perry, 25, of Dennison, Ohio, was working with a tree-service company chipping tree limbs when something caused the machine to malfunction. Emergency services received a call reporting that a chipper had "exploded" and one person was badly hurt.

Perry was reported to have been barely breathing and had a severe facial injury, with his whole mouth injured.

Firefighters took Perry to Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital in Dover, but he did not survive his injuries, according to a report in *The Times-Reporter*.

Two workers hurt when tree falls on house

Two tree-company employees were injured when a tree failed and fell on a house May 6, 2020, in Bullard, Texas.

A tree-trimming service was working near a house when the tree failed. The homeowners weren't home when the incident occurred, according to a KLTN report.

Both victims were taken to a local hospital for treatment, including one in serious condition, according to a Fox 51 KETK report.

It was not clear from the reports or the accompanying pictures if the uprooted tree was being worked on or if the failure was related in any way to the work being done by the company at the time.

Man pinned, injured by split tree

A man clearing trees next to a business had to be rescued after a tree split and a portion of it pinned him against a concrete wall May 11, 2020, in Youngstown, Ohio.

Firefighters had to cut part of a chain-link fence to get to the man. Paramedics treated him before he was put on a gurney and wheeled to an ambulance. The extent of his injuries was not given, but he could be heard screaming in pain, according to a WKBN/WYFX report.

Tree worker one of two injured in crash

A tree worker was one of two persons injured in a three-vehicle crash May 13, 2020, on South Carolina 170 near Okatie, S.C.

A tree-trimming equipment vehicle was rear-ended by an SUV and a wheel from the vehicle came off, hitting a third car on the highway and causing traffic to shut down.

Both the driver of the truck and the driver of the SUV were taken to hospitals, according to a report in *The Island Packet* of Bluffton, S.C.

Climber rescued from 80 feet up

A climber was injured and had to be rescued by firefighters from 80 feet up in a tree May 14, 2020, in Baltimore County, Maryland.

Officials said it was not immediately clear what the extent of the person's injuries were, according to a patch.com report.

Feller killed by cut tree

A tree worker felling a large tree May 20, 2020, in Crestwood, Kentucky, died when the tree fell on him.

A tree company was hired to remove a large tree from a residential property. Benjamin Oliver, 33, had cut a wedge into the front of the tree. He then prepared to move to the rear of the tree to finish cutting it when the tree snapped and fell.

Oliver became trapped underneath, and co-workers were unable to free him due to the weight of the tree, according to a WLKY report.

Climber rescued from 25 feet up in tree

A man helping a friend remove a tree had to be rescued May 21, 2020, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, after he was struck by a limb and injured 25 feet up.

The victim, a friend of the homeowner, suffered blunt-force trauma and was stuck in the tree.

Fortunately, several of the responding Ann Arbor firefighters are members of the Washtenaw County Technical Rescue Team, with specialized training in dealing with such rescues.

While the injured man wasn't pinned by the limb, crews had to stabilize the patient and set up a rope system, while others cleared the area and braced a ladder.

Based on the type of climbing and tree-trimming equipment the man had, he seemed to have experience, but he wasn't doing it as a contractor, a fire-department spokesperson said.

Once down from the tree, the man, who was conscious and alert throughout the entire ordeal, was transported in stable condition to the University of Michigan Hospital, according to a report from *The Ann Arbor News* and mlive.com.

Tree worker electrocuted

A climber doing tree work was electrocuted May 28, 2020, in Sacramento, California, after making contact with a power line while 50 feet up in a tree.

Fire crews responded for a reported tree fire at a private home and found that the tree trimmer was stuck in a tree about 50 feet off the ground.

When first responders arrived, they found the man, who had been contracted by the property owner, high up in a tree and unresponsive. Officials later confirmed that the man, who was in his 50s, had died.

Power was turned off, and a special team with the fire department trained for these types of incidents assisted with getting the victim out of the tree, according to a CBS13/CW31 Television report.

June 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the August 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

Tree worker electrocuted

A tree worker died June 1, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, after coming into contact with a power line.

Crisostomo Hernandez-Aguilar, 28, was working on a backyard palm at a residence.

First responders found Hernandez-Aguilar on fire and still suspended about 30 feet in the palm near the power lines. Fire officials said technical-rescue companies removed the body, according to an Associated Press report.

Ground worker killed in struck-by

A tree worker was struck and killed by falling debris June 1, 2020, in Anderson, Indiana.

Michael Lusher, 36, was working as part of a crew from a local tree care company and was struck while clearing brush at the bottom of a tree the crew was trimming.

He was transported to Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Anderson, where he was pronounced dead. The coroner listed the preliminary cause of death as accidental blunt-force trauma to the head, according to a report in *The Herald Bulletin*.

Tree worker killed

A climber and foreman for a line-clearance company was killed on the job June 2, 2020, in Maryland. The victim was Donald E. “DJ” Walker, Jr., 26, of Lonaconing, Maryland. No details related to the incident were provided in Walker’s obituary in *The Cumberland Times-News*, and no other published report was found on the incident.

Climber killed in fall

A climber died in a fall from a tree he was working in June 4, 2020, in Ridgewood, New Jersey.

The 35-year-old man from Bergenfield, N.J., was working at a home for a local tree-service company. He was nearly 30 feet up when he fell, and a tree limb landed on top of him. He was killed instantly, responders said, according to a *Ridgewood Daily Voice* report.

Tree worker injured in struck-by

A tree worker was injured June 9, 2020, in Lynn, Massachusetts, when a limb from a tree he was taking down fell on him.

The 32-year-old man was working for a tree service removing a tree in Lynn Woods Reservation at the time of the accident. He was in stable condition when he was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, according to a report in *The Boston Globe*.

Climber dies in 60-foot fall

A tree worker died in a 60-foot fall from a tree June 12, 2020, in St. Helena, California.

Jesus Perez, 49, of Napa, Calif., was a tree-removal worker for a company that offers products and services for wineries.

He died at the scene, according to the *Napa Valley Register* report.

One killed, another injured in truck crash

One tree-company worker was killed and another was injured June 12, 2020, in Honolulu, Hawaii, when their company truck went off an overpass onto a highway below.

Albert Ramos, 55, who was identified as the driver of the truck, was killed. His passenger, a man identified in reports only as Sinisa, 23, was injured.

Ramos was driving the truck that was pulling a trailer carrying construction equipment. They were traveling eastbound on the H1 Freeway viaduct when Ramos lost control and struck the center concrete median. Upon impact, the truck went over the median and landed below on Nimitz Highway.

Ramos was transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition, where he later died. Sinisa was seriously injured and taken to a nearby hospital. No other vehicles were involved, according to a KITV4 Island News report.

Carol Kwan, owner of Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC, in Mililani, Hawaii, alerted us to this report.

Man rescued from 50 feet up in palm

A man pinned by fronds 50 feet off the ground while pruning a palm was rescued by firefighters June 12, 2020, in Las Vegas, Nevada. A ladder truck reached the man and a platform was put in place to get him into a harness before he was lowered in what officials called a “high-angle rescue.”

The man was conscious and responding but having difficulty breathing due to the weight of the palm fronds when rescuers reached him. He refused medical care when he was lowered to the ground.

In total, seven units, including the technical-rescue teams from both Clark County Fire Department and Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, responded to the call, according to a KLAS-TV report.

Climber dies after harness reportedly fails

A climber died June 20, 2020, in Ogden Dunes, Indiana, after he fell about 40 to 50 feet while trimming a tree.

The man, from Ogden Dunes, was working as a tree-trimming contractor, and investigators determined he fell when the safety harness he was wearing had a failure.

The man was trimming a very tall pine tree when he fell. He was taken to Methodist Hospitals Northlake Campus in Gary, Ind., where he died from his injuries, according to a *Northwest Indiana Times* report.

Injured climber rescued from treetop

A climber who was injured while topping a conifer tree was rescued after being stranded 80 feet in the air June 27, 2020, in Lakeview, Idaho.

The climber was cutting the top of the tree when it either broke free early or went the wrong way, or both, and struck him. The tree was described by investigators as “rotted.”

The impact broke the man’s right arm and leg. The climber, who was wearing a harness, was secured to the damaged tree by a co-worker.

A helicopter was called to rescue the man, but there was concern that rotor wash from the helicopter would topple the tree.

Selkirk Fire Rescue & EMS conducted a high-angle rescue with webbing and pulleys. The injured climber was transferred to Selkirk’s rope system and lowered to the ground. He was taken to Lake Pend Oreille, where a Timberlake Fire District boat picked him up. The man was later transferred to a Bonner County Sheriff’s Marine Patrol vessel and ultimately flown from the scene by Life Flight Network.

The man was stranded in the treetop for approximately two hours. The rescue took 40 to 45 minutes, according to a *Bonner County Daily Bee* report.

July 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the September 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine wo shocked trimming trees from lift

Two tree workers in an aerial lift were shocked when they apparently made contact with a power line while trimming trees July 3, 2020, in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Both victims were taken to a local hospital by ground ambulance and were in serious condition.

The incident left between 30 and 40 homes in the area temporarily without power, according to a KTVT-TV/CBS 11 report.

Climber rescued after hand pinned

A climber had to be rescued July 6, 2020, in New Hope, North Carolina, from about halfway up a tall pine tree after his hand was pinned between two sections of the limb he was cutting.

The New Hope Fire Department called for the assistance of the Belfast Fire Department and their ladder truck for the rescue operation. A doctor apparently climbed the tree to help free the man’s hand and safely lower him to the ground, with help from the firefighters. The climber was assisted to a medical gurney, and emergency medical-services personnel took him to a hospital for treatment of a hand injury, according to a *Goldsboro Daily News* report.

Homeowner gets stuck 60 feet up in tree

Firefighters assisted a homeowner who got stuck approximately 60 feet up in a tree July 11, 2020, in Aberdeen, North Carolina.

Multiple agencies responded to the scene to rescue the homeowner, who had been attempting to cut the tree down when he became overheated and began to experience heat cramps, causing his hands to lock up.

Rescuers were going to bring in a ladder or tower truck, but would not have had enough room between two fences to get the outriggers out and level. Instead, Joe Mancos, a local man with experience in high-angle rescues, climbed the tree.

Firefighters were using ropes to provide the man with Pedalyte the entire time. After getting about three-quarters of the way up, Mancos was able to communicate with the man, who told him the cramps were feeling better and that he felt safer climbing down.

The rescue took about an hour and a half. The victim was checked by paramedics on scene and released, according to a *Sandhills Sentinel* report.

Operator dies after cut tree strikes lift

The operator of an aerial lift was killed July 13, 2020, in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, when a piece of the tree he was removing struck the lift truck, knocking him from the bucket.

Lance Newton, 50, of Shinglehouse, was the health and physical-education teacher at Oswayo Valley School District, as well as the operator of Newton Boys Tree Service in Shinglehouse. He also was retired from the Army, where he had earned the rank of major.

The incident happened at the Eulalia Cemetery, across the street from the fire department.

A crew from the tree-service company was removing the top of a pine tree when the large top fell, broke a large limb that was serving as the anchor point and struck the fully extended boom, ejecting Newton from the bucket as it collapsed to the ground.

Newton died from blunt-force trauma, according to the *Olean Times Herald* report.

Tree-service operator dies on the job

Robert Leroy Keethler, III, 30, of Georgetown, Ohio, died July 18, 2020, in a tree-trimming accident. He was the owner and operator of Keethler Tree and Lawn Service.

No details on the accident were reported in the *News Democrat* obituary.

Tree worker killed in struck-by

A man died July 20, 2020, in Holland, Michigan, after part of the tree he was cutting down fell on him.

The man, a 40-year-old from Pullman, Mich., worked for a Fennville-based tree-service company. He was cutting down the tree when a large part of it fell and hit him on the upper torso and head. He died at the scene.

His name wasn't immediately released, according to WOOD TV8 and *Holland Sentinel* reports.

Man electrocuted while cutting trees

A man was electrocuted while cutting trees July 23, 2020, in a backyard in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Either the man's saw, the bucket truck he was in or his body made contact with a power line.

The victim was working for a landscaping company at the time of the incident, according to the NBC2 WBBH-TV report.

Operator hurt when crane tips

The operator of a crane being used in a tree removal July 23, 2020, in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was hurt when the crane tipped and collapsed onto a vacant house.

A tree crew was working to bring down a big tree when it started to rain. The crane tilted and fell to its left onto a house being developed. Part of the crane's arm also hit another home. The people who live in the second home were able to get out safely. The crane operator suffered an injury to his arm and was taken to the hospital, according to KYW Newsradio and *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reports.

City worker killed in struck-by

A city worker was killed while cutting down a tree July 27, 2020, at Brazos Park East in Waco, Texas. City workers were cutting a large tree down when a piece of the tree fell on Robert Ochoa, 59, of Waco, killing him, according to a *Waco Tribune-Herald* report.

August 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the October 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

Operator killed when lift tips over

An aerial-lift operator was killed while tree trimming August 1, 2020, in Stockton, California, when the truck he was working in tipped over.

The 52-year-old man was in the boom's bucket cutting a tree. As the lift was lowering, the truck tipped over and the operator fell out.

Medics arrived shortly afterward and the man was pronounced dead at the scene, according to a KCRA Channel 3 report.

Man dies after cutting neck with saw

A man was killed August 4, 2020, in Newtown, Connecticut, after he was struck in the neck by a saw while trying to cut a downed tree.

Responding police found Stephen Caciopoli, 33, of Newtown, bleeding heavily from his neck.

"Stephen was helping his friend remove a downed tree when the portable masonry saw he used to cut the tree got wedged," a police officer said. When Caciopoli tried to break the saw free, it "kicked back" and struck him in the neck.

Police, fire and ambulance personnel tried to save Caciopoli's life, but due to the severity of the injury, were unsuccessful.

Caciopoli was taken to Danbury Hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to a report in *The News-Times*.

Worker hurt in struck-by

A tree worker was hospitalized August 4, 2020, in Newark, New Jersey, after he was struck by a falling tree branch.

The worker was in pain but stable after the limb fell on him while working at a residence.

Initial reports said the worker was pinned under the tree. He was taken to University Hospital for treatment, according to a dailyvoice.com report.

Two killed by lightning while clearing trees

Two men died after being struck by lightning while cutting trees in their yard August 5, 2020, in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Homeowner Ralph Thomas Wallace, 77, and his friend, Moo Saw Kefauver, 42, were pronounced dead at the scene.

A next-door home also was damaged from the strike, causing a small attic fire in which no one was injured, according to a WTVD-TV ABC Channel 11 report.

Man hurt in 30-foot fall from tree

A man was listed in critical condition after he fell at least 30 feet from a tree he was working on August 10, 2020, in New Haven, Connecticut.

Roxas Ivan Stanley, 60, of New Haven, was working on the tree, which had been split by a recent storm. The tree became unstable, and he fell to the ground from a height of about 30 to 40 feet.

Stanley was described as "gravely injured" after emergency personnel responded to the scene. He was taken to Yale New Haven Hospital.

The victim was not a professional contractor, and it was not immediately clear what role he had in the work, according to a *New Haven Register* report.

Line-clearance worker killed in struck-by

A tree worker for a line-clearance contractor was killed August 13, 2020, in a wooded area of Morris Township, New Jersey, after he was struck on the head by a branch while clearing debris left by Tropical Storm Isaias.

Responding officers and medical personnel performed CPR before Jody Terwilliger, 58, of Shohola, Pennsylvania, was transferred to Morristown Medical Center where he died, according to a *Morristown Daily Record* report.

Man injured by cut tree

A man was seriously injured when a tree he was cutting down fell on him August 14, 2020, in West Penn Township, Pennsylvania.

The West Penn Township man was treated at the scene by members of the Tamaqua Ambulance and Lehighon paramedics before being flown by Life Flight to a Lehigh Valley-area trauma center, according to a *Times-News* report.

Climber rescued from 60 feet in tree

A climber was rescued August 18, 2020, in Fairfax County, Virginia, after losing consciousness while tied in 60 feet up in a tree.

The worker reportedly experienced a medical emergency. Rescuers were successfully able to bring the worker down via a technical-rescue team, and the victim was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, according to a WJLA-TV report.

No injuries when crane collapses during tree removal

A crane collapsed after one of its booms buckled during a tree removal August 19, 2020, in Walnut Creek, California. The crane punctured a hole in the roof of the News/Channel 28 office, where the tree was being removed, but no one was injured.

A tree crew was using the crane to remove a 100-foot decaying oak tree outside the office. The tree was considered a danger after a limb snapped off in June.

Everything had gone smoothly during the two-day removal until the crew reached the bottom 30 feet of the trunk. A giant piece of the tree was wrapped in cables attached to the crane, which slowly rotated the piece away from the trunk. But the cut section proved too heavy for the fully extended crane. One of its booms folded, dropping the piece into the courtyard outside the News/Channel 28 office and sending the final portion of the crane onto the building, according to a *Rossmoor News* report.

Lift operator killed in 40-foot fall

An aerial-lift operator died after falling approximately 40 feet while cutting a tree branch August 24, 2020, in Harrington, Delaware. The 59-year-old man was inside the bucket of the boom lift when it was struck by a snapped branch, knocking him from the bucket.

The man was transported to Bayhealth Hospital, Sussex Campus, where he was pronounced dead, according to a *Delaware State News* report.

Climber injured when rope fails

A climber suffered serious injuries August 25, 2020, in Gilford, New Hampshire, after the climbing line he was using reportedly failed.

The climber was working for a local tree company when he fell about 45 feet, breaking his back in three places, according to a post at www.facebook.com/otbcnh and information provided directly to TCIA staff.

Man electrocuted trimming trees

A homeowner was electrocuted while trimming trees next to his home August 26, 2020, in Atascocita, Texas.

The 62-year-old man was on a 12-foot ladder trying to clear branches near power lines when he nicked the wires with his chain saw and he was killed.

The man's wife told deputies she was in the house and saw a flash but didn't think anything of it. Later she became worried that her husband hadn't returned, so she went outside to check on him. She found his body lying next to the ladder, according to a KHOU 11 News report.

Man survives four days pinned under cut tree

A man survived four days pinned under a tree after it fell on him while he was cutting it August 27, 2020, in Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Jonathan Ceplecha, 59, started cutting down trees with a chain saw about 11 a.m. on August 27, in a ravine on his Redwood Falls property. He was working along a wooded, steep slope about 150 yards from his home when the oak he was felling bounced in a weird way, dragging him underneath it. His hip was wedged against the tree stump. He could move his arms and twist himself to sit up, but the force of the tree broke his left leg and crushed his right foot.

Ceplecha lives alone and his nearest neighbor is a mile or more away. His shouts for help went unanswered. As time went on, his voice became weaker.

The Army veteran, who spent time in Iraq, ate plants and insects within an arm's reach and drank sweat and rainwater. At night, he covered his head to keep away swarms of mosquitoes and other insects. The layers of clothing he was wearing kept him from getting too cold.

It wasn't until the fourth night, after a missed phone call and some unanswered emails, that a daughter from Nevada became worried. When he missed arriving at work Monday, August 31, the sheriff's office was asked to make a welfare check. Coincidentally, his former wife, who had talked to her concerned daughter, also arrived to check on him and eventually found him, conscious but in pain. After nearly two hours of careful cuts, firefighters rolled the trunk a bit and pulled Ceplecha free.

Two surgeries later, Ceplecha is recovering, as doctors monitor an infection in his foot that could require additional surgery. They were able to save both legs, but he might lose part of his right foot, according to a *Star Tribune* report.

Lineman injured in struck-by

A utility lineman was injured August 28, 2020, in Beech Grove, Texas, while working to restore power in the wake of Hurricane Laura.

Justin Smith, of Beech Grove, works with the Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative and was cutting a large pine tree from a power line when the tree kicked back, hitting him in the area of his lower legs. He suffered a broken foot that required surgery. His other foot also was injured, but not as badly, according to a 12News report.

Man shocked operating lift

A man trimming trees August 29, 2020, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was injured after the lift he was using came in contact with an electrical line.

Responding Cedar Rapids police officers and firefighters found the 22-year-old man on the platform of the portable lift. Though the equipment had come in contact with a live wire, he was conscious when rescuers arrived. The first responders directed him to stay put until Alliant Energy de-energized the line. Firefighters then transferred him off the lift into the bucket atop an aerial ladder from a fire-department truck.

The man was transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, according to a report in *The Gazette*.

Man killed cleaning up storm damage

A 49-year-old man died from blunt-force trauma when a tree he was cutting fell on him August 31, 2020, in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. The tree had been damaged during Hurricane Laura, according to a KARD-TV/KTVE-TV report.

September 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the November 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine

This first item occurred in August and was missed in the Accident Briefs of TCI's October issue.

Two rescued from bucket lift

Firefighters rescued two tree workers from the platform of an aerial-lift truck August 15, 2020, in Waterloo, Iowa, after a branch they were cutting landed on the bucket's emergency shutoff, leaving them trapped.

Firefighters used a ladder to reach the tree workers and hooked them to harnesses and a belay rope so they could climb down safely. No injuries were reported, according to a report in *The Courier*.

Lift operator killed when boom fails

A man died September 1, 2020, in Zumbrota, Minnesota, after the bucket of a boom truck detached and fell to the ground.

James Mueller, 62, of Pine Island, Minn., was 30 feet in the air, operating controls of the truck owned by his tree service, when the boom arm broke off. He fell and suffered fatal injuries, according to a RiverTowns.net report.

Operator killed removing tree with excavator

A man was killed September 2, 2020, in Cottageville, South Carolina, after a large tree fell on a mini-excavator he was operating.

First responders arrived to find the machine pinned under the tree, the cab crushed and the 47-year-old man trapped inside. It appeared the operator was attempting to remove a tree when it fell on top of the excavator and a shed.

Firefighter-paramedics determined the man had no signs of life and notified the Colleton County Coroner's office. Crews then used a track hoe to lift the tree while firefighters used chain saws to cut away limbs from the tree. Special tools were then used to cut away portions of the cab to free the operator, according to *Colleton County News* and WCBD TV News 2 reports.

Tree worker hurt in fall

A worker for a tree company doing contract work for PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric) was injured helping to fell a tree in the Walbridge fire zone of the Mill Creek watershed September 3, 2020, west of Healdsburg, California.

The man fell while trimming a tree, resulting in an abdominal injury. He was airlifted to the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital with serious injuries, according to reports from *The Press Democrat* and *North Bay Business Journal*.

Man saved after severing hand with chain saw

A man cutting a tree with a chain saw September 10, 2020, in Stevensville, Maryland, was rescued by a neighbor after he severed his left hand and suffered a wound to his chest.

Brad Childress, a senior deputy state fire marshal as well as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician, had heard the sounds of a chain saw being used when he arrived at his home. He was in his yard about to go off duty when the sounds of the chain saw stopped and he heard a man screaming, "Help me!"

Childress found a 36-year-old man with a severed left hand and deep cut on his chest in the backyard of a neighbor's house.

A neighbor called 911 while Childress used a combat-application tourniquet – one of several types of tourniquets he carries with him on his deputy state fire marshal's vehicle – and applied pressure to stop the bleeding.

Childress used his portable radio to notify Queen Anne's County Emergency Services as to the extent of the man's injuries, and also treated the man's chest wound until paramedics from United Communities Volunteer Fire Department and county EMS arrived.

The injured man was taken by ambulance to Curtis National Hand Center at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore for treatment.

The man was a worker with either a tree-cutting service or a landscaping business.

Paramedics credited Childress for providing life-saving measures and mitigating the man's injuries, according to TownNews.com, myeasternshoremd.com and KPVI Channel 6 reports.

Operator rescued from lift bucket

Fire crews rescued a tree worker stuck in the bucket of an aerial-lift truck September 11, 2020, in Sioux City, Iowa, after the boom hit a live wire, causing the truck to shut down and leaving the operator stranded. Power was shut down briefly and no one was injured, according to a KCAU-TV report.

Operator dies in fall from bucket

An aerial-lift operator died September 13, 2020, in Sioux City, Iowa, after falling 30 feet to the ground. Police said the man was not wearing a harness, according to Siouxland News and KMEG Fox 44 reports.

The victim was subsequently identified as Jason T. Buckholtz, 44, of Sioux City, a tree worker with 22 years of experience in the industry.

Worker killed by rope in chipper

A man working on a tree-trimming crew was killed September 14, 2020, in Fairview Heights, Missouri, after getting entangled in a rope that became caught in the wood chipper he was operating.

Curtis Johnson, Jr., 31, of Granite City, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Fairview Heights police department.

Investigators believe Johnson was loading tree limbs into the chipper when a rope got into the machine and became entangled around Johnson's neck, leading to his death, according to a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* report.

Man crushed when tree rolls

A man was killed September 16, 2020, in Foley, Alabama, while trying to help remove a fallen tree from a roadway in the wake of Hurricane Sally.

Joel Razo Trigueros, who, with his wife, Alice, operated a landscape business, was killed when he cut a limb and the trunk gave way and rolled on top of him.

His wife and other passersby helped get the tree off Trigueros, and he was taken to the hospital, where he died, according to a WPMI NBC 15 report.

Worker injured operating chipper

A tree worker was injured using a wood chipper September 17, 2020, in Milford, Michigan,

The victim's co-workers called 911, and the injured person was airlifted to a local hospital for medical evaluation and treatment, according to a hometownlife.com report.

Homeowner killed when tree rolls

A 68-year-old man was killed when a tree rolled on him while he was working to remove it from his yard September 21, 2020, in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

The man was working to remove a tree that was uprooted during a recent storm. The tree rolled and pinned him, killing him, according to a bringmethenews.com report.

Man cuts leg with chain saw

A man cut his leg with a chain saw while trimming trees September 24, 2020, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Police arrived within three minutes of the call and applied a tourniquet, according to a KSTP-TV report.

Chipper operator killed in struck-by

A tree worker operating a chipper on the edge of a work zone September 24, 2020, in Canton, Ohio, was killed when he was struck by a dropped limb.

The tree limb that struck Bryan Sills, 59, of Canton, fractured his cervical spine in multiple places and caused his death, according to an investigator for the Stark County Coroner's office.

Sills was supposedly operating the chipper outside the hazardous area around the tree when a limb fell outward farther than expected.

The limb fell from a height of approximately 40 feet and struck him, according to a report in *The Repository*.

October 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the December 2020 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine **Bucket operator shocked by power line**

An aerial-lift bucket operator suffered a shock and burns October 3, 2020, in Weathersfield, Connecticut, after making contact with a power line.

A crew was trimming a tree near power lines when the bucket operator made contact with a live line. That party was taken to an area hospital to be treated for burns.

Eversource had to shut power off to the area to allow crew members to safely move their equipment, according to a WFSB-TV-DT Channel 3 report.

Two hurt when tree truck flips

Two drivers suffered minor injuries after a tree-service aerial-lift truck flipped over on Interstate 95 in Warwick, Rhode Island, October 3, 2020.

The truck took out the center guardrail just north of Route 117, and also hit a Jeep.

Both drivers were taken to Rhode Island Hospital with non-serious injuries. Traffic was backed up for about an hour and a half, according to a WJAR NBC 10 News report.

Climber killed by palm fronds

A tree worker died after being crushed by palm fronds October 6, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona.

A man in his 40s was working in the tree when he was crushed by approximately 700 pounds of palm fronds. When firefighters arrived on the scene, they found the tree trimmer 20 feet up from the ground in the backyard of a home. He was pronounced dead on the scene, according to a KPHO AZ Family 3TV report.

Landscaper cut by brush saw

A landscape worker was cut by a brush saw October 6, 2020, while cutting brush at a home in Southport, Maine.

The man was injured when the saw blade separated from the shaft and "crawled up his leg, acting like a projectile and slicing his calf and shin area," according to Southport Fire Chief Gerry Gamage.

The man was transported by LifeFlight of Maine to Maine Medical Center in Portland, according to a *Boothbay Register* report.

Postal worker rescues man cut by chain saw

A postal worker helped save a man who had cut himself with a chain saw October 9, 2020, in Norwalk, California.

Postal carrier Fernando Garcia was on his route in Norwalk when he heard a call for help. When he got close to the source, he found a man on the ground.

"When he turned around, I saw that he was holding his left arm," Garcia said. "And he was just covered in blood."

The victim had accidentally cut his arm with a chain saw while working behind his sister's home. Garcia jumped into action by creating a tourniquet with his belt until paramedics got there.

"Looped it through the hole, put it around his arm, tightened it as best as I could and just wrapped it up," he said. "And held it there as best as I could."

The victim's family said the man is going to be OK. Garcia said he got the idea to use his belt from watching movies.

After his heroic act, he went to Target to get a new belt and shirt and continued his route – re-enforcing the meaning of “essential worker,” according to the CBSLA KCAL 9 report.

Operator injured in fall from bucket

A tree worker was seriously injured in a fall of 10 to 15 feet from the bucket of his aerial-lift truck October 29, 2020, in Indian River County, Florida.

The man, described as being in his 30s, was conscious when firefighters arrived. Indian River County Fire Rescue took the man to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute in Fort Pierce with a probable broken leg and other injuries

It was unclear if the worker was cutting limbs at the time of the fall, according to the *Treasure Coast Newspapers* report.

November 2020 Accident Briefs compiled for the January 2021 issue of Tree Care Industry Magazine **Homeowner killed by cut tree**

A 73-year-old man was killed November 1, 2020, in Gaffney, South Carolina, when a tree he felled behind his home caused a second tree to fall and the second tree landed on top of him.

Bobby Wayne Bradley, Sr., used a chain saw to take down a large tree. The impact of the cut tree jarred the ground, causing another nearby large tree with rotted roots to give way. The second tree pinned Bradley to the ground.

He was discovered by his wife moments after the incident, but was pronounced dead at the scene, according to *The News & Observer* and WYFF Channel 4 reports.

Climber injured after tree fails

A climber suffered serious injuries November 2, 2020, in Mystic, Connecticut, after falling 50 feet when the tree he was cutting failed.

The victim, a 25-year-old man who was a contractor, was in the process of limbing and topping the tree for removal. The man had just cut the top off the tree when the tree snapped 30 feet below him. He landed on a small shed-type structure and was trapped there under the toppled tree.

Firefighters worked to pull the tree off the climber and extract him from the shed. The man was flown by Life Star to Hartford Hospital in serious condition, according to *The Day* and WTNH reports.

Pinned climber rescued from tree

A climber was rescued by first responders November 5, 2020, in Clayton County, Georgia, after he became pinned in a tree by a rigging line.

Responding officers found two tree workers in the backyard of a home, including the one pinned from ankle to torso by a rope being held taut by a large tree limb it was attached to. The limb was hinged over but still attached to the tree.

Officers acquired two ladders from a neighboring residence. One ladder was used to gain access to the steel-reinforced rope so it could be cut with bolt cutters. The second ladder was used to gain access to the climber so that when the steel rope was cut, he would not fall and further injure himself. When the steel rope was cut, the arborist was freed from the tree.

It still took some time before Clayton County Fire and Emergency Services could remove him, due to the injuries he sustained from being suspended in the tree. During the investigation, officers learned the arborist had been stuck in the tree for approximately 30 minutes before anyone called emergency services, according to a report in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Operator seriously injured in fall from bucket

An aerial-lift operator was seriously injured November 5, 2020, in Reisterstown, Maryland, after a tree or tree part struck the bucket he was in, knocking the operator out of the bucket and causing him to fall 30 to 40 feet to the ground.

The man was taken to R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center with serious and potentially life-threatening injuries, according to a WBAL-TV 11 report.

Pinned climber rescued by firefighters trained in tree rescue

Firefighters took about an hour to free a climber whose leg was pinned by a fallen limb November 7, 2020, in Fairfield, Connecticut.

A crew from a tree company was working on a tree when a branch suddenly dropped as one of the workers was removing a large limb from an adjacent tree. The climber's leg was pinned between the fallen limb and the tree.

A second tree worker climbed the tree to help his co-worker, but was unable to reach the injured man. Fairfield firefighters said the worker was trapped in a high, difficult-to-reach location complicated by branches and other debris blocking access for rescuers.

The worker who attempted to rescue the man was plucked from the tree by Fairfield firefighters, who called the Bridgeport Fire Department to assist, due to the height of the tree and difficulty reaching the injured man.

Fairfield firefighters used chain saws to clear branches and access the tree. Once the base of the tree was cleared, they used portable ground ladders to gain access to the victim.

Two Fairfield firefighters, Frank Zwierlein and Rich Bassett, had recently attended a special arborist tree-rescue class and constructed a special haul system they used to lift the heavy branch that trapped the man's leg. They then secured a rescue harness to the man and belayed him to the ground.

Fairfield assistant fire chief George Gomola described the rescue as high risk, complicated by how high the victim was in the tree, the size of the branch trapping his leg and the limited access afforded to rescuers. "The specialty training that our firefighters had received prior to this incident paid huge dividends in safety and efficiency."

The tree worker was taken to St. Vincent's Medical Center, where his condition was not immediately known, according to the report in *The Wilton Bulletin*.

Worker rescued from palm

It took emergency crews about 20 minutes to free a tree trimmer who wound up trapped upside down in a palm tree, about 30 feet above the ground, November 9, 2020, in a San Carlos, California-area neighborhood.

After firefighters got the victim, a man in his 40s, out of the tree, medics took him to Sharp Memorial Hospital for evaluation of complaints of dizziness and nausea, according to a *Times of San Diego* report.

Bucket operator hurt in fall

The operator of an aerial-lift bucket was injured November 19, 2020, in Duxbury, Massachusetts, when a large leader he was removing swung in an unintended direction, knocking the operator out of the bucket and to the ground.

The operator was an undisclosed distance off the ground and was not wearing his full-body harness. The man was hospitalized with undisclosed but very serious injuries, according to a report related directly to TCIA staff.

Worker killed by felled tree

A tree worker died after he was pinned to the ground by a felled tree November 25, 2020, at a home in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

The 26-year-old man from Everett, Mass., was working for a contracted tree-trimming service.

It was reported that the victim was not breathing and responding Sudbury officers began performing CPR on him. Sudbury Fire paramedics also arrived and provided life-saving efforts.

The man, who was not identified, was transported to Emerson Hospital in Concord, Mass., where he was pronounced dead, according to *Boston Globe* and WCVB Channel 5 reports.

Homeowner hurt by cut tree

A man was injured November 30, 2020, in Calvin Township, Michigan, while cutting down trees on his property.

Ro-Mell Dungey, 40, had been trying to remove trees on his property when one of the trees fell on him. His 14-year-old son removed the tree and then went to find help.

Fire and EMS personnel removed Dungey from the woods, and MedFlight took him to South Bend Memorial Hospital in Indiana with undisclosed injuries, according to a 94.9 WSJM report.