

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - JULY 2018

# WORKING SAFELY WITH TREES



- ENSURE ONLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL DIRECT TREE RELATED OPERATIONS AND THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY CORRECT ANY IDENTIFIED HAZARD OR IMPROPER WORK PRACTICES.
- WORKERS INVOLVED IN TREE RELATED OPERATIONS MUST BE GIVEN INSTRUCTION AS TO ALL HAZARDS RELATED TO THE WORK INCLUDING FALL PREVENTION, METHODS OF COMMUNICATION, FIRST AID AND CPR, ROADWAY SAFETY, ELECTROCUTION PREVENTION AND OTHER RESCUE PROCEDURES.
- BE AWARE OF SURROUNDINGS SUCH AS DEBRIS, TRIPPING HAZARDS, FALLING LIMBS AND POWER LINES IN WHICH THE ASSUMPTION SHOULD BE MADE THAT IT IS A LIVE WIRE.
- WEAR ALL APPLICABLE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.
- Go to: [njmel.org/MEL\\_Safety\\_Institute/Resource\\_Center/Employee\\_Safety/Public\\_Works/Safety\\_Bulletins/](http://njmel.org/MEL_Safety_Institute/Resource_Center/Employee_Safety/Public_Works/Safety_Bulletins/)

### **EXAMPLES:**

- EMPLOYEE WAS STANDING NEAR A ROAD CREW THAT WAS REMOVING A LARGE BROKEN LIMB AFTER A STORM. THE LIMB BEGAN FALLING TOWARD HIM AND HE STARTED WALKING BACKWARDS QUICKLY AND FELL OVER A GUARDRAIL SUSTAINING A COMPOUND FRACTURE OF HIS FEMUR. HE HAS HAD 3 SURGERIES AND THE TOTAL INCURRED IS \$280,000 AND HE WILL HAVE ISSUES WITH THIS LEG FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
- EMPLOYEE WAS IN A SWING CUTTING DOWN TREES WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO REPEL FROM ONE TREE TO ANOTHER. WHILE SECURING A LANYARD TO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A SECURE BRANCH, THE BRANCH BROKE CAUSING HIM TO SWING BACK INTO THE OTHER TREE INJURING HIS HEAD, NECK, ARMS AND BACK. EXTENSIVE PHYSICAL THERAPY CONTINUES AND THE TOTAL INCURRED ON THE FILE IS \$108,000. THIS CLAIM COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE.