



## Safe work positioning and practice when using ground saws

A near miss has been reported when an arborist returned to tidy up a site. The work site was a steep slope, covered with both previously cut branches and rocks. The ground conditions were wet. A branch was being cut with the operatives left leg being positioned up the slope in front of him, and his right leg much lower down. He was cutting a branch between his two leg positions, lost his footing, fell slightly forwards and lost control of the saw, which came into contact with his left trouser leg. The trousers stopped the saw and no injury was sustained.



1. As part of the Risk Assessment process, fully assess footing and general ground conditions before attempting to cut with a chainsaw. If secure footing can't be attained, don't proceed
2. Spend time removing cut branches/rocks/other debris from the work area to ensure good footing before use of a chainsaw, and/or wait for drier conditions
3. Ensure a good work position and secure safe stance, otherwise don't proceed
4. Consider the use of a hand saw as an alternative