



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
of Suffolk County

**Extension Education Center**

423 Griffing Avenue, Suite 100  
Riverhead, New York 11901-3071  
t. 631.727.7850  
f. 631.727.7130

## TREE WORK SAFETY

### *What can I expect if I fall while working on a tree?*

If you fall 10 feet, you'll hit about 17mph top speed, resulting in cuts, scrapes, bruises, dislocations and cracked bones like vertebrae.

If you fall 30 feet, you'll be motoring along at about 30 mph, leading to concussion, fractures (multiple), pelvis issues and potentially death.

If you fall 40 feet, which ups the speed to a mere 35 mph, more often death, or injuries listed above.

If you fall 50 feet, you will be up to 39 mph, USUALLY death, severed spinal cord, broken back, head injury, etc.

If you fall 70 feet, at a speed of 46 mph, ALMOST ALWAYS death, and injuries as above along with ruptured aortas, lungs, etc.