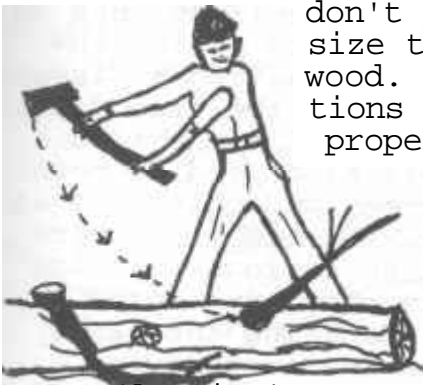




The proper way to fell a tree is very important to the person who lives in the suburbs and has trees on his property, as well as the woodsman whose duty it is to cut down certain trees to be sent to the mills for lumber. The art in felling a tree is to make it fall in a safe direction so as not to injure a home, a car, or electric wires, or other objects of importance.

First study the tree and its surroundings and if it's just for a campfire, don't pick on a tree this size to be chopped for firewood. See other illustrations and demonstrations on proper woods for campfires.



(lopping)

First, take an ax and stand on the side of the tree on which you are to place an ax cut about 18 inches from the ground as -you will note in the above illustration.

Next make sure there is no underbrush or dead branches hanging down, so as to interfere with the swing of the ax. After the back cut has been completed, then go to the side of the tree to which the tree is to fall. On this side the lower notch is to be cut in deeper into the tree -- causing the tree to fall in this direction. It is a common call in the woods that when a tree starts to fall the call of "Timber" is shouted, which is a warning to all to watch for falling trees.

After a tree has come safely to rest on the ground, it is usually necessary to cut off all the branches and the thinner top portion of the tree. This is the term called "lopping" and it means to cut off the side branches. It is usually done from the bottom of the tree - chopping toward the top. Then discard the branches, leaving the area free of debris, so as to prevent an accident. Just make sure to make the undercut on the side to which you want the tree to fall! With a little practice, perfection is very evident!

A real camper or a Pioneer would never maliciously take an ax or a hatchet and chop into the bark of a live tree. It has been noted that oftentimes boys do this without thinking, which causes insects to enter the tree, causing a disease to the wood and eventually the tree dies. The beauty of our woods and our shaded streets and our mountains depend so much upon good, healthy trees and unless it is for the purpose of making lumber - which is an occupation -- then serious thinking should be done before the injuring of a healthy tree just by damaging the bark. There is a well-known and true saying, "Only God can make a tree!"