

# Safety implications of aggregated retention harvesting



**Greg Howard**  
**Timber Training Tasmania**

# Aims

- To assess the safety implications of aggregated retention harvesting on the harvesting operation and on subsequent operations.



# Process

- Surveyed 13 completed coupes and 3 partially harvested coupes
- Interviewed 12 contractors, 8 manual fallers and 3 mechanical felling machine operators
- Interviewed Forestry Tasmania staff in 4 (of 5) Districts
- Interviewed Workplace Standards staff

# Windthrow

- Mostly understorey
- Worse in small aggregates
- Majority in first 12 months



# Potentially hazardous trees



# Regeneration burning

- Small aggregates burnt worst



# Regeneration burning

- Some oldgrowth trees burnt



# Contractor interviews: Issues

- Steep areas
- Over-mature trees
- Difficulty identifying aggregates
- Inappropriate aggregates placement
- No incidents or accidents



# Risks

- Hazards
- Consequence
- Increase in probability
- Increase in exposure

# Aggregated retention versus clearfell



# Aggregated retention versus clearfell



# Recommendations

- Increase aggregate size
- Incorporate aggregates into boundaries
- Avoid steep areas
- Provisionally mark aggregates
- Location of major tracks
- Ongoing risk assessment