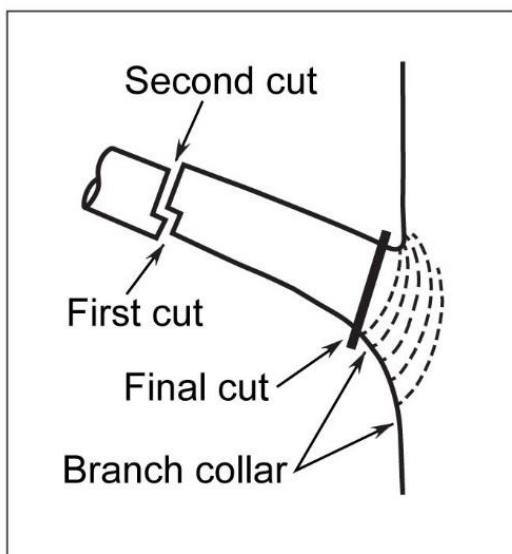


## How to remove a live branch without harming the tree



Ladder fuel, branches near the ground, can carry low-intensity surface fire up into the tops of big trees. Crown fire is extremely dangerous and hard to fight.

This branch was cut too close to the stem. Biological agents can enter the wound, open gaps in the tree's protective outer bark, and cause harm.



Remove a live branch with **three cuts** to minimize injury to the tree and facilitate healing,

- 1) First, make a small cut through the bark under the branch 6 to 8 inches out from the stem. (This prevents the falling branch from tearing a strip of bark onto the stem.)
- 2) Second, drop the branch with a top cut farther out beyond the undercut.
- 3) Finally, remove the "coat hanger" with a cut that is just beyond the curved branch collar, the transition between the stem and branch. Leave enough to hang your hat.