



## SAFETY MEMO

To: All Woodlands Employees, Forestry  
Consultants, Harvesting Contractors,  
Silviculture Contractors, Canfor Woodland  
Safety Representatives.

Date: November 14, 2006

Copy To:

From: PG Woodlands Safety Committee

Location: CAC office

Subject: **SAFETY HAZARD ALERT**

File:

# SAFETY HAZARD ALERT

On October 10, 2006, a Woodlands Employee suffered a serious eye injury that resulted while conducting timber cruising activities in the forest. The injury occurred while employee was at a timber cruising plot. The area around the plot was quite brushy. There was devil's club about 3 to 5 feet tall. Most of the leaves had fallen off the devil's club due to the late fall conditions. As the employee started to number one of the trees at the cruise plot, she stepped on a devil's club. As employee moved foot to go to next tree in plot, the devil's club sprung back and hit employee in the side of the face and in the left eye. Two devil's club needles became embedded in the left eye of the employee. A 40-minute surgery was performed at Prince George Hospital to remove the two devil's club needles from the left eye. This incident resulted in a lost time incident for our division. Luckily the employee is anticipated to make a full recovery from this scary incident.

As a result of this incident, a full investigation was completed into the incident. An analysis was also conducted into past eye injuries that have occurred in our operation. After reviewing past incidents and near misses, it was determined that a trend of eye injuries was definitely occurring in our operation.

The result of our investigation, has lead our division to institute a mandatory protective eyeglass policy. The following protective eyeglass policy will be instituted immediately for Woodlands Employees working in the forest:

1. Eye protection is mandatory for all Woodlands employees while working in the timber;
2. Eye protection is mandatory for all Woodlands employees working anywhere else where vegetation is over shoulder height;
3. Eye protection includes prescription eyewear with side shields, or designated safety glasses.

Safety glasses are currently being tested to determine the best design for forestry field applications. Safety glasses are also being tested with various antifogging sprays.

**All Woodlands staff to immediately follow this new mandatory protective eyeglass policy.**

**Prince George Woodlands Safety Committee**