

SAFETY INCIDENT – ATV Hitting Cross Ditch



INJURY: HEAD TRAUMA

A contract worker conducting logistics and casual quality plotting on a tree plant was travelling to his section of the block on an ATV. While travelling through the block he realized he had forgotten his radio at staging and returned to get it. He was then travelling back through the block on his ATV to locate the crew boss, after calling for more trees he was informed to meet at staging so he set out once again to return to staging. This time as he returned along the same road, he was traveling too fast and struck a relatively gentle cross ditch going approximately 50km/h. The worker was thrown forward over the ATV handlebars and struck the ground. The ATV rolled end for end along the ground and struck the worker in the head breaking his helmet in three places and pulling it off his head, this action resulted in over 12 inches of lacerations to the back of his head and required plastic surgery to close.

In his injured condition the worker got on the radio and called for help, a helicopter being used in the tree plant operation was mobilized to locate him. Upon seeing the extent of his injuries he was immediately flown to the local hospital where he was assessed and then transferred to a major medical center to undergo further assessment and receive surgery to close the lacerations.

Recommendations & Follow-up:

1. Ensure your day is planned ahead of time and materials needed for the days work are available and with you.
2. Recognize when you are becoming rushed and fatigued and implement controls to avoid causing an accident.
3. Identify hazards in your work area, visibly flag them out, and communicate their presence.