

SAFETY ALERT

Forestry Harvesting Operations

CLOSE CALL: Worker slips, falls down bluff

Location: Conuma River (near Gold River, BC)

Date: September 23, 2016

Details of Incident: A worker was hanging falling boundary for a helicopter harvesting cutblock in very steep and broken terrain. After approximately three hours in the timber, the worker was near the top of a rock bluff when he lost his footing and slid/fell approximately twenty metres along a 130% slope, landing on his back.

After a few minutes of recovery, the worker was able to call on the radio to his partner, who came to his aid. After the co-worker assessed him they were able to walk to the pickup truck and drive to first aid.

Along the drive, the worker felt sick and requested the truck to pull over. The worker stood at the side of the road then fainted, falling down in the ditch. The worker recovered a few moments later and was able to continue the journey to first aid.

The first aid attendant suggested the injured worker see a doctor at the hospital for a more thorough evaluation for injuries. After applying a neck brace on the worker, first aid accompanied the worker and his working partner to the hospital where the worker was evaluated by a doctor.

The doctor examined the worker with an x-ray on the worker's elbow to check for a fracture. The x-ray was negative for fracture. The worker received an anti-inflammatory shot and was released.

Learnings & Suggestions:

- Always assess your worksite for injury potential and severity, do not take risks.
- Understand fatigue and how it can affect your judgement. Take a break and assess any questionable task or worksite.
- Discussion with employee to review circumstance of incident and ensure more diligence in assessing risk and taking safer routes.

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