BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

B.A. Blackwell & Associates Ltd.

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Close Call/Serious Incident

Location: Keithley Creek Public Road, approximately 15 km north of Likely, B.C.

Date of Incident: October 30, 2008

Details of Incident:
Two workers were en route to a worksite traveling in a pick-up truck at 50 to 55 kph. It was not snowing at the time, but had snowed less than 30 minutes earlier. They encountered a patch of slick mud under a skim of snow when negotiating a corner at the top of an incline. The driver attempted to correct, but the truck was uncontrollable and swerved as it gained momentum down the hill, eventually rolling over one and a half times off the road and down an embankment. Causal factors were determined to be adverse road conditions.

The workers were wearing their seatbelts, the most experienced driver was behind the wheel and the vehicle was in 4 wheel drive. Air bags failed to deploy, but both workers were able to walk from the accident scene for assistance.

The passenger suffered minor injuries to his head, neck, back, shoulder, ribs and right arm. The driver suffered bruising on her thighs, and left arm and experienced a stiff neck.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

- Always drive to the road conditions
- If in doubt, get out of the vehicle to inspect the road surface if safe to do so
- Continue to reinforce the use of seatbelts
- Continue to reinforce the policy that the most experienced driver operate the vehicle in adverse conditions
- Remind workers of their right to delay or refuse unsafe work, including driving under hazardous conditions
- Continue to reinforce the policy that a pre-trip inspection be conducted to ensure the vehicle is safe for operating in fall/winter conditions (particularly tires)
- Carry a SAT phone or SPOT beacon in areas where radio communications are limited

For more information, please call Kyle Broome, 604-880-1623.