BC **Forest Safety** Council

Vehicles & Roads

Safety Alert Type:
Vehicles and Roads

Location: Northeast Interior

Date of Incident: 2008-01-01
Company Name: WorkSafeBC

Details of Incident:

An all-terrain vehicle (ATV-quad) driver lost control of his machine as it moved down a steep hill at a high rate of speed. The out-of-control ATV crashed into a tree and the driver suffered a fatal skull fracture. Fortunately, a passenger riding on the vehicle escaped serious injur y. The driver and passenger were riding on an ATV vehicle that was designed to carry only one person. Neither the driver nor the passenger on the ATV were wearing safety head gear, or eye protection. In addition, the vehicle's brakes were not functional – the braking system was low on fluid and the mechanical brake was seriously out of adjustment.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

- Employers, provide written safe work procedures to all workers who drive or work on ATVs.
- Wear safety headgear, and eye protection when operating an ATV.
- Make a pre-trip inspection to ensure that the ATV is in safe working order.
- Never operate an ATV that has malfunctioning brakes.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on vehicle capacity. These instructions provide information on the number of people allowed to ride on a vehicle.

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