BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Close Call/Serious Incident

Location: Copper 07-1, Porcupine Creek Rd, Salmo

Date of Incident: July 20, 2009

Details of Incident:

- **Cougar encounter**
- **Tree planter had a close encounter with a cougar in cut block. Both worker and cougar did not see each other due to heavy rain/ fog until they were 5 meters from each other. Cougar was not aggressive and left the site.**
- **Worker acted in a safe manner to overcome incident – he stayed calm, did not turn his back or run. He raised his shovel over his head and waved it back and forth. The cougar left the site. The worker reported the incident to his supervisor and the rest of the crew. Everyone remained on alert for further signs of cougar (tracks, scat, evidence of fresh kills) while in the area.**

Recommended Preventative Actions:

- **Review Safety Guide to Cougars with crew.**
- **Review emergency evacuation procedures and radio use.**
- **Ensure that no one is working alone.**
- **Encourage workers to make as much noise as possible in order to avoid surprise encounters.**
- **Report incident to land owners and all other crews working in the area.**

For more information, please call:
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