Hazard: Unstable log decks due to fast melting snow

Location: Summerland, BC

Date of Incident: May 6, 2013

Details of Incident (courtesy of Gorman Bros. Lumber): An employee parked a vehicle at the back end of a block where the company had been decking wood since road restrictions were imposed in February. He went for a short (20 minute) walk down to an area that had recently been skidded and then back to the truck.

About 200 metres from where he parked, a deck of logs had rolled onto the road blocking his exit. Used RADAR before spending 30 minutes skidding logs out of the way with a cable he had in his truck, as the logging crew had already left for the day. With hot sunny weather the snow is melting quickly in the afternoon and the snow under the deck must have melted, causing the log deck to shift.

Recommended Preventative Actions: With large volumes of wood decked throughout the winter use extreme caution when passing these decks and do not park near them. Rapidly melting snow leaves these decks susceptible to collapsing. Assess your worksite for hazards.

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