



TAG

SAFETY ALERT

Lowbed Strikes Leaning Birch

Description of the Event:

A lowbed driver travelling to a worksite at 3:00 am struck a leaning Birch tree overhanging the road, which pushed through the windshield on the passenger side and carried on through and exited the drivers' side window, narrowly missing the driver. Trucks ahead of the lowbed did not see the leaner and the leaner was not visible at the time of impact in dark conditions. It is believed that the cold temperatures (-22°C) may have caused the snow loaded Deciduous tree to snap and lean into the road after the other traffic had passed. Although this road section had been previously assessed and sanitized for overhead hazards, changing conditions can create new hazards at any time.

*This event had a Serious Injury or Fatality potential (SIFp) – Had circumstances been slightly different, the tree could have caused serious injury to the driver.

Suggested Actions:

- Danger Tree Assessments and falling on active road systems must be completed and re-assessed on an as-needed basis following significant weather changes.
- 'Jill Pokes' and leaning trees cause a serious hazard for all traffic and should be identified, communicated and removed as soon as practicable and safe to do so.
- Use radio to notify other road users of potential hazards.



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

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BCFSC welcomes all incident or near-miss submissions. If you have an incident you'd like to share or would like to subscribe to the **TAG Safety Alert** [click here](#). BCFSC will review and remove all identifying information to protect your privacy.

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