

SAFETY ALERT

MOSAIC
FOREST MANAGEMENT

Timberland Manager for  **ISLAND**
TIMBERLANDS

SUBJECT: Swamper Hit By Fly Rock

DATE: March 2022

Potential Hazards

Despite the skill and knowledge of blasters working in the forest sector, most blasting techniques used for logging road construction create the opportunity for unexpected fly rock.

Steep terrain, switchback roads, and rock condition all impact the complex decision in determining the safe zone around a blast.

Switchbacks in particular can give people the impression they are further from the blast site than they actually are.

Incident Summary

A 3-person road crew on the mid-Coast was constructing a road to support harvesting operations. Their work included frequent drilling and blasting.

During one of the blasts the swamper was hit by a piece of fly rock that weighed approximately 1.5 lb, resulting in a broken femur and other injuries to his leg.

Photo



Preventative Actions

- As a high-risk activity, blasting operations must be well planned and those plans must be communicated to and understood by all workers in the area.
- It is vital that the blaster and any other workers involved in the planning understand how to read their maps, and properly determine where everyone must clear to ahead of a blast.
- Switchbacks and other terrain features can result in needing to travel a long distance from the blast site which, in certain situations, can create a false sense of distance from the blast.
- Blasting is a highly regulated activity, but the responsibility ultimately rests with the blaster to ensure everyone is in the clear prior to a blast being initiated. The blaster must determine the location of every worker prior to initiating the blast, and not just rely on them saying they are "in the clear".

with orange "LT" spray paint and white ribbon.

