



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Flood and Landslide Risk - Spring 2022

With spring temperatures on the rise, snow melt has caused an increased risk of flooding, washouts and landslides. Plan work activities while considering forecasted flood levels and the potential for landslides. Avoid work near watercourses and steep areas that may be prone to slides.

Brief your crew on the risks of flooding and landslides, especially those who may not have experienced flood conditions before - this may include tree planting crews, layout crews and road maintenance crews who may be working on repairing damage caused by severe weather.

Here are some of the risks to discuss:

- Road washouts can occur quickly and may surprise drivers. Consider roads may wash out behind crews, leaving them stranded.
- Silviculture and field crews often cross and work adjacent to streams and rivers. Postpone work next to rising water until conditions improve.
- Soil next to bridges and culverts may be eroded by heavy rains and high stream flows. Sometimes this erosion cannot be easily seen. Be cautious and assess crossings from a safe distance before driving over them.
- Travelling at night during flood conditions is not recommended. Limited visibility can result in not being able to spot washouts in time to stop safely.
- Heavy rains can cause water saturated soil - which is prone to landslides. Fast flowing streams and rivers can also erode the base of slopes causing them to slide. Avoid work in steep areas with weak soils until conditions improve.
- Industrial camps are often set up near streams for easy access to a water source. Camps located in these areas can be at risk for flooding and may need to be relocated.
- Crews responsible for inspecting and repairing roads and water crossings need to be extremely careful. Don't risk getting too close and being caught up in fast rising or fast flowing water.
- Make sure your emergency response plans include procedures on how to respond to severe weather incidents.



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
Central BC: 2666 Queensway, Prince George, BC, V2L 1N2
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Resources and more information

[Government of BC Flood and Freshet Resources](#)

[River Forecast Centre for flood warnings \(interactive map\)](#)

[DriveBC major events for road conditions and landslides](#)

[BC Weather Alerts from Environment Canada](#)



[Image courtesy of TranBC](#)

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 **Industry Safety Alert** [click here](#). BCFSC will review and remove all identifying information to protect your privacy.

Disclaimer: Industry Alerts are voluntarily submitted by workers or companies. We encourage the sharing of information that can help improve safety for all workers. The BC Forest Safety Council is not responsible for accuracy of content.



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