

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2023-07-13

On July 13th, 2023, a wildland firefighter was fatally injured while working on a fire near Revelstoke. News agencies report that the firefighter was found trapped under a fallen tree and later succumbed to her injuries in hospital.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by this incident.

This incident is under investigation and details are still to be determined; so contributing factors to the incident are not available.

In light of recent incidents involving tree strikes please see some safety reminders below.

Here are some suggested safety considerations:

1. Wildfire operations usually involve working around dangerous trees. These trees are a hazard due to lean, physical damage, overhead condition, deterioration or any combination of these factors. A tree does not have to be dead to be a dangerous tree and a dead tree is not necessarily dangerous.
2. If dangerous trees are present, they must be felled or a thorough risk assessment by a Dangerous Tree Assessor be conducted. During wildfires this assessment includes both burnt and unburnt trees. In extreme conditions such as drought, root systems may be compromised beyond what is normally seen.
3. Conduct regular and frequent check-ins with people who are working alone. The frequency of check-ins should increase when workers are involved in high-risk activities and/or there are new and young workers present.

Resources:

- [Introduction to Dangerous Trees on Forestry Worksites Training](#)
- [Wildfire Dangerous Tree Assessor Training](#)