



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Grader operator airlifted out suffering from exposure

The incident highlights the importance of doing multiple check-ins when working alone, or in isolation.

A road maintenance employee operating a grader recently spent a night down an 80-foot embankment, suffering severe exposure while outside for more than 9 hours.

Local Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers were called in by police the morning after the employee was reported missing in the Naramata area, north of Penticton.

The missing worker's grader was found on Chute Lake Rd. Tracks were spotted off the roadway, and the grader operator was discovered down the embankment, suffering from severe exposure. Overnight temperatures were minus 12 degrees.

SAR members began performing emergency medical aid for exposure. The worker was then evacuated from the scene by helicopter due to their serious condition and the steep terrain. The grader operator was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Learnings

- Refer to WorkSafeBC OHS [Regulation](#) for more information on safeguarding your crew, and ensuring all steps are taken to maintain a safe working environment.

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.



BC Forest Safety

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