



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Close call with firewood cutters on resource road

Location: near Revelstoke, BC

Date: January 2023

Details of Close Call: A contract faller was leaving work early and driving back towards town on the Twin Creek Forest Service Road. He didn't hear anyone on the radio calling kilometres therefore, he himself only called every several kilometres. Approaching the 8km sign he noticed a pick-up truck on the road and recognized it as belonging to local firewood cutters.

As he was holding his radio up to his mouth to call them, he noticed a snag coming down from the top side of the road. He immediately stopped his pick-up and the snag crashed down onto the road 10 feet in front of his vehicle.

The firewood cutters failed to block the road and were not monitoring the radio. One of the workers was sitting inside their truck, on his phone.

Learnings & Suggestions: Always expect the unexpected, especially on resource roads close to town where you're likely to meet members of the general public who may or may not have a radio or know to call in their kms.

A discussion with the firewood cutters occurred shortly after this incident. The site supervisor explained that this incident had a high risk of serious injury and/or fatality potential. The supervisor explained that if they are going to be working on an active resource road they need to be monitoring the radio and block their worksite at either end to ensure this doesn't happen again.

The message was apparently received, as this same crew was observed in the following days using signage and other methods to prevent a similar incident from occurring.

Submitted by: Downie Timber Ltd.

Resources: Visit BCFSC's [Resource Road Safety](#) web page for helpful information.



BC Forest Safety

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