

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2023-09-26

On September 26th, a Bell 206L helicopter went down near Purden Ski Hill, east of Prince George. The pilot and one passenger were fatally injured in the crash. The four other passengers on board were injured and sent to hospital. The Transportation Safety Board (TSB) is investigating this incident.

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.

Consider the following points on helicopter safety:

1. The pre-flight briefing from the pilot contains valuable safety information including procedures on what to do in case of an emergency. Information on seatbelts, door operation, crash positions and emergency equipment is provided. If you are a passenger, listen carefully and ask questions if you are uncertain about anything in the briefing.
2. All helicopters are equipped with an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) that will broadcast the location of the helicopter in an emergency. ELTs will automatically turn on if a helicopter crashes, but passengers should also be aware of how to turn it on manually.
3. As a passenger, take an active role in your safety during the flight. If there are any concerns with weather or terrain, make sure to discuss those with the pilot.
4. All forestry companies should have Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) that provides clear direction in case of an emergency. If your company uses air transportation such as helicopters, float planes or other fixed-wing aircraft, make sure your ERP includes information on how to respond appropriately if the aircraft goes down or is missing.
5. If your company uses air transportation to travel to the work site, consider establishing Air Carrier Standards that outline the minimum requirements that need to be met by your helicopter or aircraft service providers.

Resource Links:

[Air Operations Safety Resources – BC Forest Safety](#)

[Helicopter Passenger Safety Guide](#)