

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2023-12-08

On December 8th, a forestry worker was fatally injured at a dryland sort yard near Gold River, BC. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service are 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 is the ninth direct harvesting fatality of 2023.

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

Consider the following safety points:

1. Logs coming off the top of log trucks have been the cause of numerous fatalities. Securing the load with a loader's grapple, or using a wrapper removal station, reduces the risk of falling logs.
2. When loading logs, make sure outside logs are long enough to be contained within the bunks. Shorter logs must be contained within the load so they do not fall off. Logs placed at the top of the load must be carefully chosen and crowned appropriately so they remain secure during transport.
3. Debris and log chunks can make it into a log load. These objects can be very hazardous if they come off the load during transport or at a log yard. Loader operators and drivers should inspect loads carefully to make sure logs are placed correctly and the load is free of debris prior to transport.
4. Ensure Safe Work Procedures identify safe zones for the driver, communications, and line of sight/visibility between the driver and loader operator.
5. Safe zone locations for the driver will differ depending on the loading or unloading activity and other hazards at the site. Safe zone locations may include in the cab of the truck, in front of the truck, a minimum of 5 metres behind the trailer or in a different location as determined by a hazard assessment.
6. Dryland log sort yards are very busy worksites with heavy equipment and pedestrian workers performing duties closely together. Good safe work procedures and constant communication are required to keep workers separated safely from moving equipment and logs.