



INDUSTRY

# SAFETY ALERT

## Tree planter slips, suffers serious leg injury

**Date of Incident:** June 5, 2024

**Details:** A tree planting crew were working a Heli logged block that was greater than 40% slope covered in heavy slash. Midway through the day one of the planters attempted to climb over a log when the bark came loose, causing them to slip and fall. The planter fell on a stick protruding from the log, impaling their mid outer thigh. A two inch piece broke off and stuck into their leg.

The injured worker called for help and the crew mustered to perform first aid. The location was about 600 metres from their truck. Due to the steepness of the block, a helicopter was called to evacuate the worker to hospital to have the stick removed and the wound treated.

There was cell reception on the block which was used as the main form of communication. The supervisor sent all pertinent information to the area supervisor who coordinated the helicopter evacuation and ambulance to get the injured worker to the hospital.

All of the planters on the crew had at least two years planting experience and among them was a trained paramedic and nurse.



### Learnings & Suggestions:

- Test bark-covered logs for stability and integrity prior to climbing on or over them. If possible, plant around the log and avoid climbing over it.
- Caulk boots should be used on sites with heavy slash and slope greater than 40%.
- The planter was fatigued from working the steep ground. To limit up-and-down movements and avoid slash with more ease, extra caches should be set up throughout each piece so planters can bag up less and plant their pieces in sections
- Take more breaks throughout the day to limit fatigue.

*This information voluntarily submitted by industry – to share a safety alert click [here](#)*



BC Forest Safety

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