

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2025-09-16

On September 16th, a skidder operator was fatally injured when their skidder rolled down a steep slope in an area north of Revelstoke. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service are currently investigating this incident.

We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and offer our sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy.

This is the fifth harvesting fatality in 2025.

This incident is under investigation and details are still to be determined. Contributing factors to the incident are not available during an ongoing investigation.

Consider the following safety points:

1. A thorough assessment, including walking the site, helps prepare operators for steep slope logging operations. Use the assessment to build site specific procedures that operators will use to keep their equipment stable.
2. Operating logging equipment at its limits does not allow for unexpected terrain. Maintain safety buffers by not operating on the steepest possible slopes. This helps operators recover when surprised by an unexpected event.
3. Transitions to and from roads or skid trails can be hazardous due to the abrupt change in slope. Consider building points along the trail or road that provide access with gentler slopes to help operators maintain machine stability.
4. Uneven terrain created by holes and high stumps can cause equipment to tip over even on gentle slopes. Good communication between logging phases can help identify and manage these types of hazards.
5. Well maintained seatbelts and ROPS (Roll-over Protection Systems) are important pieces of protection if there is a tip-over or roll-over. Regular inspections help identify any damage or weakness that needs to be repaired.
6. Beware of hazards further down the slope. For example, a tip-over may become a more serious roll-over if it occurs right above a much steeper slope.
7. Consider using alternate logging methods and technology for steep slope logging – winch assist, tethered equipment or cable yarding systems may be more appropriate.

Resources:

[Steep Slope Logging Assessments](#)

[Steep Slope Logging Alert](#)

[WorkSafeBC Steep Slope Logging Checklist](#)