



# INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

## Upset Condition Increases Risk While Chaining Up

**Date:** March 2026

**Location:** Southern Interior

**Details of Close Call / Serious Incident:** Three contract workers were pulling a trailer loaded with a side-by-side up a resource road. The road was slippery with snow and ice, and on a steep section the truck lost traction and slid backward for about 7 metres. The driver steered the trailer, so it went into the snowbank stopping the truck.



The driver engaged the emergency brake but left the truck in reverse gear and the engine running, and with the passengers, exited the vehicle. The workers began to put chains on the tires while the truck was in gear and running.

A harvesting contractor arrived on the scene and noticed that the reverse lights were on. The truck was put in park and turned off.



BC Forest Safety

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A grader working nearby was called - the grader came to the site, pulled the truck out of the ditch and to a flat spot where chains could be put on safely.

## Cause Analysis:

### Immediate Cause

- Driving error – did not put truck in park
- Failure to secure – did not secure vehicle
- Poor Weather/Road conditions – Icy road

### Basic Causes

- Inadequate Risk Assessment
- Mental Stress – upset condition

### Root Cause

- Inadequate Compliance with Standards

## Key Takeaways:

- Assess conditions throughout the day. Be proactive with equipment (e.g. chains).
- Recognize upset conditions and take time to de-energize equipment before proceeding (i.e. put the vehicle in park). Do not rush when in an upset condition.
- Use RADAR:
  - 1) **R**ecognize the risk
  - 2) **A**ssess the situation stop to think
  - 3) **D**evelop a safe solution
  - 4) **A**ct safely to fix the problem
  - 5) **R**eport and record the upset condition

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