

Safety Alert of THE MONTH

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS IN BC'S FOREST INDUSTRY

May 2017

Flood and Landslide Risks

Significant flooding and landslides have already occurred in the BC's interior and two members of the public are presumed dead as a result*. More rain and warmer temperatures that will increase snowmelt are in the forecast, increasing the potential for more dangerous flooding and slides. Warnings/evacuation orders are in place as conditions change.

Brief your crew on the risks of flooding and landslides, especially those who may not have experienced flood conditions before. This includes tree planting crews, layout crews and road maintenance crews who may be working on repairing the damage caused by severe weather.

Plan the work activities considering the forecasted flood levels and the potential for landslides. Avoid work near watercourses and steep areas that may be prone to slides. Here are some of the risks to discuss:

- **Road washouts can occur quickly and may surprise drivers. Consider that roads may wash out behind crews, leaving them stranded.**
- **Silviculture and field crews often cross and work adjacent to streams and rivers. Postpone work next to water until conditions improve.**
- **The soil next to bridges and culverts may be eroded by heavy rains and high stream flows. Sometimes this erosion cannot be easily seen. Be cautious and assess crossings from a safe distance before driving over them.**
- **Travelling at night during flood conditions is not recommended. The limited visibility can result in not being able to spot washouts in time to stop.**
- **The heavy rains can cause water saturated soils which are prone to landslides. Fast flowing streams and rivers can also erode the base of slopes causing them to slide. Avoid work in steep areas with weak soils until conditions improve.**
- **Industrial camps are often set up near streams so there is easy access to a water source. Camps located in these areas can be at risk for flooding and may need to be relocated.**
- **Crews responsible for inspecting and repairing roads and water crossings need to be extremely careful. Don't risk getting too close and being caught up in fast rising or fast flowing water.**



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- **Make sure your emergency response plans include procedures on how to respond to severe weather incidents.**

Resources and Additional Information:

- Check <http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/> for river conditions and check other road conditions/mudslides: <http://www.drivebc.com/mobile/pub/events/majorevents.html> and weather warnings here: https://www.weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc
- * <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/searches-for-two-missing-b-c-men-called-off-as-river-levels-fall-1.3402352> (as at May 8, 2017)

