

# SAFETY ALERT

## Emergency Evacuation

August 27, 2019

### Potential Hazards

- The workers had discussed dropping the plot prior to starting but decided to continue. The workers did not appropriately assess the risk.
- Unstable terrain surrounding cliffs.
- The worker's hard hat stayed on his head for the fall, otherwise it would have resulted in a head injury as he hit his head hard.
- A fall from heights presents risk of spinal injury, head injury and internal bleeding.
- Working in remote areas increases time to get injured worker to medical care, even helicopter evacuations take several hours.

### Preventative Actions

- Review procedures for assessing hazards and risk to ensure workers know when it is unsafe and to drop the plot / refuse unsafe work.
- Ensure maps provided to ALL contractors identify hazards (slopes, stand condition) and potential helipads (swamps, trails) prior to starting the block.
- Identify communication, evacuation routes and review plan to evacuate an injured worker at preworks/tailgate safety meetings for ALL blocks.
- Ensure that hard hats are secure on head, use chin strap or helmet style of hard hat if necessary.
- Test communication at every block. Ensure batteries are fully charged and system is reliable.
- Minimizing the "fact gathering time" for 911 and SAR crews to determine their hazards and the resources needed. This will reduce time to get worker to medical aid.

## Incident Summary

- Cruising Contractor was attempting to measure the diameter of a tree on the edge of a cliff. The ground gave way under his feet and he fell 5m.
- Block access was 6km ATV ride from FSR. Communication was via satellite phone.
- The worker was conscious but immobile and had to be evacuated from the block using a helicopter.
- SAR arrived on site within 1 hr. It took 9 people 2hrs to carry worker out in basket stretcher, 750m over steep rough terrain.
- It took 6.5 hours to get worker to hospital from the time 911 was called.
- Worker was assessed at the hospital with severe bruising and whiplash.



**SAFETY COMES FIRST**

