

SAFETY ALERT

Lost Time

August 4, 2017

Potential Hazards

- Fatigue after working a long camp shift (seven days straight) in hot weather.
- Rushing and not taking the time necessary to safely navigate through an area of the block with high percent of blowdown; stepping off a log onto another with loose bark.
- Delayed evacuation:
 - Satellite phone was not fully charged and poor reception, forced to use handheld radio & relay messages to random road users.
 - Carried injured worker on stretcher through 550m of thick bush & difficult terrain.
 - Help is never close enough!

Incident Summary

- A contractor seriously injured their knee after slipping on bark as they stepped off a log in a dead pine stand with 25% blowdown and could not walk out on their own as result of the injury.
- Another worker attempted to call for help on their satellite phone but was unsuccessful because of a low battery and limited reception; they were eventually able to reach someone on the road channel using their handheld radio.
- The local Search & Rescue and contractor working nearby were called to help extract the worker to the nearest helicopter access point, which was 550m away.
- After seven hours, the worker was eventually flown to hospital where it was determined they suffered ligament damage to their knee.



Preventative Actions

- Reviewed the importance of assessing hazards and taking the time necessary to mitigate the associated risks.
- Reiterated the importance of never walking along or jumping off blowdown and to avoid stepping on it as much as possible.
- Programmed all handheld radios with RR & repeater channels.
- Satellite phones will be carried in protective case to ensure batteries aren't drained when they are accidentally switched on.
- Map showing the planned route & radio channel used for the day will be required to be left at the truck going forward.
- A formal review of evacuation procedures will be completed.



SAFETY COMES FIRST

...and it starts with the person you see in the mirror.

