

SAFETY ALERT

Forestry Harvesting Operations

Trap snares dog, injures worker

Location: British Columbia

Date: January 19, 2017

Details: Three employees were walking through a plantation while their dogs walked alongside the road in the bush when they heard a metallic “snap” and noticed one of the dogs caught in a “conibear” style trap.

The group had a difficult time getting the trap to release but managed to set the dog free before it asphyxiated.



One employee’s left middle finger, ring finger and right thumb were injured during the struggle with the trap but luckily not seriously, as the doctor confirmed there was no nerve damage or broken bones.

Potential Hazards:

- Unknown whereabouts of actively set traps that can be harmful to an unaware person and/or animal.
- Trappers are not legally required to make the locations of their traps known.
- Unfamiliarity with traps and their release mechanism.
- Trapping is most active late fall through late December but activity can go on into spring.

Forestry Harvesting Operations Safety Alerts are voluntarily submitted by workers or companies. The BC Forest Safety Council is not responsible for accuracy of content. Please contact the contributing source regarding incident details. We encourage the sharing of information that can help improve safety for all workers in forestry harvesting operations. **NOTE:** Providing your contact information is optional. We ask for this contact information so other companies can talk with someone to get further details on the close call / serious incident.

Learnings & Suggestions:

- Inform yourself of potential trapping activity in your area before heading out and discuss with crew during pre-work.
- Contact local trapper, build a relationship, and attempt to coordinate activities. Trapper may be able to provide trap locations or agree to mark with ribbon.
- Look for signs of recent trapper activity (i.e., sled or foot tracks, ribbon trail).
- Inform yourself on how traps work & how they release (see links below).
- Leave dogs at home if you suspect traps could be in the area.

For more information:

1. Link to a video that provides clear instruction on how to release a “conibear” style trap and how they generally work should you or your dog ever encounter one in the field:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.sharing>

2. Link to a second video on trap release technique:

<http://www.terrierman.com/traprelease.htm>

(This alert provided courtesy of CANFOR)

