

Forest Industry Safety Alert

ATV impact with water bar throws driver from machine

Location: Side road off the Tulameen Forest Service Road (Cascades Forest District)

Date: September 8, 2015

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident: While driving an All-Terrain Vehicle on a temporarily deactivated road, the operator of the ATV was launched over the handle bars after failing to see a *water bar soon enough to slow down and safely ride through it.

The water bar was difficult to see until it was too late. The driver hit the handle bars with his left shin and right foot, and impacted the ground with the helmet and his left shoulder. Prior to the incident the ATV was travelling at approximately 20 km/h.

(*The purpose of a water bar is to capture and direct road surface water from the road into the ditch line or across the road surface beyond the shoulder of the road.)

Corrective Actions:

- When riding a road for the first time ride very slow to assess the hazards
- Don't take for granted a nice looking, straight, flat stretch of road - especially when you know there has been some level of deactivation

Learnings & Suggestions:

- Mark the location of water bars - particularly ones that are hard to see - as they are encountered with a piece of ribbon or paint

For more information on this submitted alert: Cascadia Environmental Services Ltd.,
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