

Forest Industry Safety Alert

A day off from work has its own risks and dangers

Location: Chilcotin River (near Alexis Creek, BC)

Date of Incident / Close Call: May 9, 2014

Details of Incident / Close Call: Three tree planters new to the company were excited about canoeing the Chilcotin River on a day off. Without advising anyone they departed in the canoe with only one life jacket between the three of them.

About 2½ to 3 kilometres into the trip they encountered rapids beyond their ability. Then they hit a log jam ... the canoe tipped, trapping one person under. The two others floated on a log to the shore. The one under the canoe was dragged for a while but managed to chase the canoe down river for 400 meters before retrieving it.

The 3 tree planters eventually met up and crossed the river to return to camp with some scrapes and bruises as a reminder of the close call they experienced.



Learnings and Suggestions:

- When canoeing wear a life jacket and a helmet
- Don't canoe in unknown waters
- Communicate to people your day off plans
- Think it through!

For more information on this submitted alert: Next Generation Reforestation Ltd.
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