SAFETY ALERT

MOSAIC FOREST MANAGEMENT

Timberland Manager for TimberWest | ISLAND TIMBERLANDS

SUBJECT: Emergency Response Plan Failure

DATE: June 3, 2021

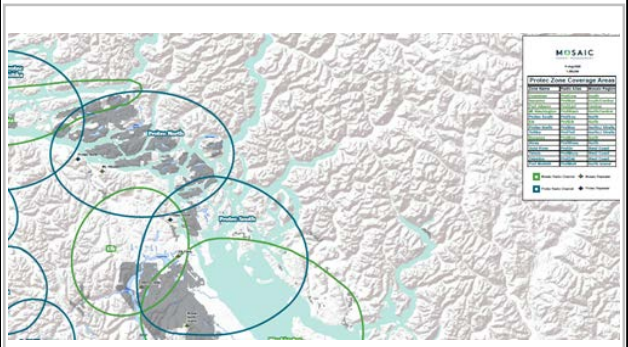
Incident Summary

A worker tripped over a fallen log and caught his forearm on a dead branch stub while falling resulting in a large cut. First Aid was administered by other workers immediately but when they went to engage their emergency response plan to call for an early water taxi pick up, they were unable to reach anyone on the radio. Eventually they were able to find a location where they had enough cell service to organize help via text message

Potential Hazards

While this was not a critical injury the possibility of that always exists when working in the woods. A well developed and tested emergency response plan is critical to ensure workers can access the help they require in emergency situations. If this was a worse injury the time delay in finding a means of communication could lead to unwanted outcomes.

Photo



Preventative Actions

All workers must know and have means to enact the emergency response plan(s) for their work site. As you move into higher risk work or more remote locations the importance of this increases. Preventative actions for this include:

1. Test your means of communications daily at the start of your shift or as location or the situation changes.
2. Ensure all workers know the ERP and have the means to enact it (radio, satellite communication device, etc).
3. Understand each devices limitations, such as radio dead zones or no cell coverage areas, and ensure your ERP accounts for these.
4. Carry out ERP drills periodically to ensure all workers understand the ERP and to identify challenges or learnings in your plan to improve results.
5. Be aware of complacency, people normalize risk quite quickly. It is very easy to fall into the trap of assuming your plan will work, without confirming it.