FATALITY ALERT
– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2023-10-24

On October 24th, a forestry worker was fatally injured while operating an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) in an area northeast of Prince George. WorkSafeBC is investigating this incident.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by this incident.

This is the eighth direct harvesting fatality of 2023.

<mark>Contributing factors to the incident are unavailable at this time as this incident is under investigation and details are still to be determined.</mark>

Consider the following points on ATV safety:

1. Be especially cautious of steep slopes, side slopes and uneven terrain such as road deactivations. If the terrain is too challenging, park the ATV and walk to your destination.

2. It may be tempting to drive at higher speeds when operating an ATV on a road due to the smooth road surface. However, ATVs have poor handling at high speeds and terrain drop-offs on road shoulders or deactivations can surprise operators and cause loss of control.

3. Loading and unloading of ATVs is a high-risk activity. Make sure to choose a flat location, properly secure ramps and take it slow.

4. Training of all ATV operators, even experienced ones, is important. Assessment of ATV riding skills and how closely operators follow Safe Work Procedures should be a regular practice.

5. Use all available safety equipment including the appropriate PPE. Helmets need to meet the appropriate safety standard and always should be securely fastened.

6. Follow a regular inspection and maintenance program for all ATVs and UTVs. They must be in excellent working condition as workers often rely on them in difficult and remote terrain.

7. Make sure Working Alone Procedures and good communication systems are in place for workers. Regularly practice these procedures with drills and exercises. Test your system with someone who misses their check-in and measure how quickly they are found and rescued.