

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2024-12-16

On December 16th, a log truck driver was fatally injured during an attempt to tow a log truck that had spun out on an icy road. This incident occurred in an area near Logan Lake, BC. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service are 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 second harvesting fatality of 2024.

This incident is under investigation and details are still to be determined; so contributing factors to the incident are not available.

Consider the following safety points:

1. Upset conditions occur when something out of the ordinary occurs. Examples include mechanical breakdowns or a vehicle getting stuck. The majority of incidents occur during upset conditions. When things go wrong, slow down and assess the situation using the REC process.

1

Recognize the hazard:
with a task, job or worksite.



2

Evaluate the situation/hazard:
what controls are necessary;
seek assistance if necessary.



3

Control the hazard:
plan, implement and evaluate
control measures.



2. Make sure that your company has procedures to follow when guiding vehicles that are backing up, including:
 - Communication protocols with verbal and hand signals
 - Ensuring workers outside of vehicles are always in a safe location and visible at all times

3. Winter conditions significantly increase risk for forestry operations. Reduced visibility due to darkness and weather, icy roads and cold temperatures are hazards that can lead to serious incidents.
4. When working around and under trucks or mobile equipment, take steps to prevent unexpected movement. Following lock out procedures and chocking wheels are examples.
5. Anticipate poor winter road conditions and chain up early to avoid loss of traction on hills. Communicate with road users about upcoming road hazards so they can take action before reaching the unsafe sections of road.

Resources:

- [Working Around Vehicles Safety Resources](#)
- [Back Over Hazards](#)