

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2025-01-17

On January 17th, a contracted worker was fatally injured while conducting maintenance work at a mill located in Quesnel, BC. WorkSafeBC and the Coroners Service are currently investigating this incident.

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

This is the first wood products manufacturing fatality of 2025.

This incident is under investigation and details are still to be determined. Contributing factors to the incident are not available during an ongoing investigation.

Consider the following safety points:

1. Wood products manufacturing mills are complex operations with hazards that must be controlled. Use tools like [Field Level Hazard Assessments](#) (FLHA) to help identify and manage these hazards ensuring that all hazardous energy sources are identified. Seek assistance when completing FLHAs for high-risk situations like confined spaces.
2. Upset conditions occur when unexpected events or breakdowns happen and often result in serious incidents. When upset conditions occur, step back, reassess the hazards and ensure extra controls are implemented to manage the new hazards.
3. When contractors are working on site, the Prime Contractor must co-ordinate safety activities, including ensuring that contractors' safety procedures and practices are effective. Regular inspections and worker observations are ways to check this. High risk activities may require additional inspections at a higher frequency.
4. A thorough safety orientation helps new and young workers understand what hazards are present and what they can do to keep themselves safe. This orientation is required by the [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) and must include information on 13 topics. Check your orientation program to make sure all these items are included.