



PUBLIC SAFETY BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
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BC Coroners Service

FATAL FORESTRY ACCIDENTS PREVENTABLE

VICTORIA – The BC Coroners Service is urging all operators of forestry and wood manufacturing machinery to carry out proper lock-out/immobilization procedures, whenever performing any maintenance or repair.

“Already this year, we have witnessed three fatal incidents involving workers in forestry related activities,” said Resource Industry Coroner Tom Pawlowski. “We also want to urge all employers and supervisors to ensure that workers are familiar with, and use, proper risk assessment tools and safe work practices.”

In a recent incident, a worker troubleshooting a mechanical problem on a skidder was killed when the equipment rolled over him.

In 2006, there were six fatal incidents involving failure to lock-out, or immobilize machinery and mobile equipment. In virtually all of these cases, the deceased were experienced operators. Two incidents involved workers crushed while performing repairs on log processor heads that were not properly de-energized. The other cases involved drivers who were run over by their vehicles, and two workers, at wood processing and firewood manufacturing plants respectively, who failed to lock-out machinery before attempting maintenance or troubleshooting.

For more information on forestry safety, please visit WorkSafeBC at: www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Forestry/Home.asp and the BC Forest Safety Council at www.bcforestsafe.org/nav-alerts.htm.

The BC Coroners Service is committed to conducting a thorough, independent examination of the factors contributing to death, and may provide recommendations to prevent a similar death in the future, in order to improve community safety and quality of life in British Columbia.

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