

All-terrain vehicle incident results in contract worker injury

Synopsis

On Saturday July 7, 2018, a contract worker sustained serious injuries resulting from an All-Terrain Vehicle Crash (ATV) on a steep forest road on a mining exploration site. On the morning of the incident, the worker utilized an ATV found parked near a drill rig to access an area of the site the worker had been to with mine personnel two days prior to the incident. The worker drove the ATV up to the top of a mountain area and carried out work alone. On returning later that day, the worker attempted to retrace the route, however got lost and ended up descending an untraveled road that was steep and in poor condition (see figure 1). The worker attempted to stop the ATV by applying the brakes, but the ATV only slowed and did not stop. The ATV entered a ditch, and the worker was thrown forward onto the steering column and was ejected from the ATV when it rolled over.



FIGURE 1. Untraveled Road

Findings

The Chief Inspector of Mines directed the Mines Investigation Unit to investigate the incident pursuant to Section 7 of the *Mines Act*. The investigation determined there were a number of factors that contributed to the incident including lack of formal orientation of a new worker to the layout and safety risks of the site, lack of orientation, experience and certification of the worker on the operation of ATVs, and the company's lack of a formal process for worker orientation, hazard assessment or pre-job safety meeting requirements.

The investigation found the above failures in the orientation of the new worker were in part due to the substantial lack of awareness of the *Mines Act* and the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC by the Mine Manager. The preparation of orientation materials enables a Mine Manager to consider the subject matter that needs to be covered and explained. The informal orientation of the new worker resulted in little or no structure to the orientation.

Outcome

The Mines Investigation Unit completed a recommendation for an Administrative Monetary Penalty (AMP), and a determination of a penalty was made based on the following three contraventions of the *Mines Act*:

1. Failure to report a Dangerous Occurrence within 16 hours after the event.
2. The manager who was the supervisor did not hold a Mine Supervisors certificate.
3. There was no record of the orientation or training for the new worker.