



# Hazard Alert

## *Accidents at Quarries Involving the Public*

Over the past six months, there have been a number of accidents involving the public at B.C. quarry operations, including two fatalities and a serious accident which resulted in injuries.

### Incident Summaries

#### Squamish, B.C.

- 5 youths were in a quarry, celebrating a birthday.
- At approximately 2 a.m., one of the youths, a 17-year-old male, fell off a 10-metre high bench onto boulders and died from his injuries.
- The quarry site had visible signage, and the entry gate was locked.

#### Hills, B.C. (near New Denver)

- A 51-year-old male was riding a motorcycle around a gravel pit and not wearing a helmet. He drove off a 4.6-metre high gravel stockpile, fell from the motorcycle, and died from his injuries.
- The pit had visible signage, and the entry gate was locked. The deceased accessed the pit via an old railroad bed adjacent to the site.

#### Merritt, B.C.

- A Dodge Ram 2500 rolled off a lookout parking lot above a quarry and fell/rolled down a 120-metre bank, destroying the truck. The male driver (age unknown) jumped or was thrown out of the truck near the top of the bank and survived.
- The quarry owner had built an access road to the lookout years before. This access road was frequented by the public. The site lacked signage and gates, so the quarry owner has been ordered to install signs, gates and fences to restrict public access to the quarry area, including the lookout.

If you have information that would benefit the health and safety of the British Columbia mining industry or have comments or concerns regarding this topic, please contact



## Accidents at Quarries Involving the Public (cont'd)

### Relevant Parts of the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia

**1.3.1:** Only persons authorized by the manager shall enter a mine.

**1.3.2:** Notice to this effect shall be posted at all road entrances to the mine.

**1.3.3:** No persons shall enter or leave a mine except by a recognized means of entry or exit.

**10.6.5:** When a mine is closed or left unattended, the manager shall take measures to prevent inadvertent access.

### Responsibilities of Mine Managers

Mine managers are required to conduct risk assessments of their mine properties to determine if improvements to signs, gates and fences are necessary to restrict public access to the site.

Posting signs that warn the public of hazards on a mine site is sensible. Erecting gates on access roads that are locked when the mine is not in operation is prudent. Fencing should be installed at sites adjacent to publicly accessible areas. Signs and gates do not guarantee that persons will not trespass on a mine property, but they do act as warnings against inadvertent access.



In addition to meeting Code requirements, Mine Managers are encouraged to educate members of communities close to their operations regarding the hazards associated with trespassing on mine properties. This education could include additional warning signs or community outreach programs. By proactively addressing risks, the chances of loss of life are reduced.

If you have information that would benefit the health and safety of the British Columbia mining industry or have comments or concerns regarding this topic, please contact