

Construction Initiated Slides Working Group Focuses on Improving Safety

The Construction Initiated Slides Working Group (CISWG) was formed in 2014 as a sub working group of the Coast Harvesting Advisory Group (CHAG) to examine landslides that were caused by road construction activities and explore how best to support preventing similar incidents in the future.

The key objective of the group is to enhance safety through improving awareness and knowledge with regards to field indicators relating to potential slope instability, road construction plans/maps/designs, road management practices, road construction techniques and operational initiatives that improve worker safety and aid in the elimination of construction initiated slides.



Excavator in a construction initiated slide.



Pistol butt trees, indicating slope instability.

To follow on the 2016 release of an awareness package for road construction crews, supervisors and workers, the CISWG has recently finalized the following materials:

1. Awareness package for forestry professionals involved in the planning, and development of resource roads,
2. Construction Initiated Slides (CIS) awareness video, and
3. The first in a series of CIS awareness posters.

Construction Initiated Slides have been associated with unidentified site conditions, not following the plan and operational errors such as: improper execution of plan, inadequate water management, pioneering ahead, and over blasting. Many of these incidents involved an excavator sliding down slope from the road prism during road construction activities. The incidents have been very serious in nature with considerable human, environmental and operational costs.

The following information is based on incident data submitted to the CISWG for construction initiated slide events on the coast between 2012 and 2016:



Region	*Operational Error	Not following Plan	Unidentified Conditions	Total
Central Coast	16	4	3	23
Van Island	7	1	3	11
South Coast	2	1	4	7
Haida Gwaii	1	0	0	1
Total	26	6	10	42

It is the intention of the CISWG to aid in the elimination of construction initiated slides through:

- the continued engagement of forest industry members involved with/responsible for resource road planning, development and construction activities through awareness and education,
- sharing ways to identify sensitive zones and safely build road, and
- providing options for monitoring and enforcement of road construction standards,

CISWG materials are accessible via the following link:

<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2713>

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Dustin Meierhofer at meierhofer@bcforestsafe.org or call toll-free 1-877-741-1060.

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