



FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Close Call/Serious Incident

Location: Stewart Creek near Christina Lake

Date of Incident: February 2, 2009

Details of Incident:

Logs were spread out over the landing and road in order to be bucked to length. The skidder operator decided he would help the landing buckler by holding the end of the tape in order to make the job go quicker. The logs were covered in 10cm of fresh snow and the skidder operator was wearing winter boots with a good tread. Work space was confined because equipment was parked very close to the logs and there was landing debris so the worker walked on the logs as he helped the buckler. He had successfully helped to measure the last log without incident but then, as he moved to jump off the log, suddenly slipped off it, landing on a chunk of wood on the ground. This caused considerable pain and he was unable to walk without assistance. The injury was a badly bruised hip and torn muscles which put him off work for several months.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

- 1. Assess your work area to determine the presence of any hazards and take steps to eliminate or reduce those hazards. Extra caution is required while working in winter conditions.**
- 2. Practice good housekeeping by keeping areas where workers must walk free of slash and debris.**
- 3. Assess conditions and wear appropriate PPE including correct footwear.**
- 4. Workers are reminded that they are collectively and individually responsible for the safety of all workers and all worksites.**
- 5. Continually assess the work area for changing conditions and changing risks or hazards. DO NOT become complacent about the work environment.**

For more information, please call: Rick Johnson, Safety Coordinator 250-365-9983