



Investigation into Tragic Incident Continues



Ivor Lundin, 57-years-old died when the boom boat he was operating sank in Okanagan Lake.

Police say they received a call from the Kelowna Tolko Sawmill employees about 9:20 p.m. on January 30 reporting that one of their commercial tugboats had sunk near Manhattan Point in Kelowna.

RCMP learned that the vessel's operator was unaccounted for and called on the Kelowna Fire Department, which attended the scene and searched the area.

Central Okanagan Search and Rescue was also called. With the assistance of another Tolko vessel, searchers dropped an underwater camera into Okanagan Lake from above the sunken vessel and managed to confirm that the operator was still inside the vessel.

The RCMP's underwater recovery team recovered the body from the sunken vessel, said Cpl. Jesse O'Donaghey.

SAFER Co-Chair and USW Local 1-423 President said; "Ivor had been working at the mill for at least 25 years. He was well liked. Had a lot of friends. It's touching a lot of people," McGregor said.

McGregor said the RCMP and WorksafeBC are at the scene investigating. When they are finished a joint USW-Tolko investigation into this tragedy will follow.

"As a company, we are extremely saddened by this loss of life, and our thoughts are with the family and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time," said Brad Thorlakson, president and CEO of Tolko. "We also know that the coming days and weeks will be difficult for our Kelowna employees, and we will be providing assistance to them during this time."

Coming Events

March 7 *Leading Mentally Healthy Workplaces*, Vancouver BC

March 7/8 *BC Fed OHS Part 1/2*, Squamish BC

April 3 *Western Conference on Safety*, Vancouver BC

Five Forest Industry Workers Fatally Injured

So far 2017 has got off to a very tragic beginning.

- On January 27th, a worker was fatally injured while he was doing maintenance on a small sawmill in Lumby, BC.
- On January 30th, a worker at a Kelowna sawmill drowned after the boom boat he was operating sank.
- On February 4th, a faller was fatally injured when a tree uphill from where he was working uprooted and struck him. He was working in the Woods Lagoon area on the BC Coast.
- On February 9th, a log truck driver was fatally injured near Fort St. James. A south bound car was stopped on Highway 27 waiting to turn left. A south bound logging truck stopped behind this car. A second south bound logging truck was not able to stop in time to avoid a collision with the first logging truck. The resulting collision caused vehicles to enter the north bound lane and an empty north bound logging truck collided with one of the logging trucks and went into the ditch. One of the log truck drivers was fatally injured at the scene and another was seriously injured. A fire occurred after the collision. The weather conditions at the time of the incident have been described as extremely poor, low visibility and snowing heavily.
- On February 16th, a log truck driver was fatally injured north of Fort St John when his loaded log truck failed to negotiate a curve and rolled over. Road and weather conditions were poor at the time of the incident.

Our sincere condolences go out to the family, friends and co-workers of the deceased workers.

2017 - BC Forest Safety Ombudsman Report on Helicopter Emergency Medical Services

This review was undertaken as part of the mandate of the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman, specifically as part of the Office's responsibility to "identify and make recommendations to resolve systemic problems within the forest sector".

This report initially focused on the effectiveness of the Helicopter Emergency Services (HEMS) strictly from a forest worker perspective. However, because the emergency medical transportation system is so inter-related, it was difficult to entirely separate out issues also affecting the general public. Therefore, some of the observations and recommendations contained in this report apply not only to the forestry sector but also to all residents of the province.

[WILL IT BE THERE? - A Report On Helicopter Emergency Medical Services in BC](#)



HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Injuries to shoulder and head

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Dec

A crew truck travelling on a forest service road failed to negotiate a curve and rolled down a 150-foot embankment into a lake. The sole occupant was able to escape from the cab at the bottom of the lake, swim to shore, and climb up the embankment, where he was found by another passing crew vehicle.

Injury: Crush injuries to upper body

Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Dec

A worker entered a perimeter-guarded area to do maintenance work on the lumber end stacker. The end stacker cycled, pinching the worker between the hoist frame and the stacker assembly.

Injury: Broken leg

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Nov

A certified hand faller was attempting to fall a balsam danger tree that was limb-tied with an adjacent larger red cedar tree. As the danger tree started to fall, the top of it failed and a 20-foot section fell towards the faller. It struck the faller as he attempted to escape from the base of the tree. The worker was treated on site by a first aid attendant, then transported to the hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Laceration to head, injury to back (1 worker)

Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2016-Oct

Three workers were replacing the motor and the outboard arbor bearing on a defect cut-off saw (84 inches in diameter) on a log processing deck. One of the workers fell about 15 feet from on top of the saw swing-arm to a waste conveyor below.

Injury: Concussion, injuries to head

Industry: Forestry, Trucking

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Nov

A chain hooked to a dozer was being used to pull a logging truck that had broken down. The chain broke and went through the windshield of the logging truck, striking the driver. The driver was transported to the hospital by company vehicle.

New Joint Health and Safety Committee Related Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

On December 14, 2016, the WCB Board of Directors approved the following new sections to the OHSR:

1. Section 3.26: Requires an annual evaluation to measure the effectiveness of joint health and safety committees;
2. Section 3.27: Establishes mandatory minimum training and education for joint health and safety committee members and worker health and safety representatives;
3. Section 3.28: Clarifies the meaning of "participation" in section 174 of the Workers Compensation Act by providing three additional examples of what participation by worker and employer representatives in an employer incident investigation includes.

SAFER Participates at the Truck Loggers 74th Annual Convention

The 74th Truck Loggers Convention and Trade show was held in Vancouver at the Bayshore Inn January 18-20th.

The SAFER Council booth was well attended and lots of forest industry health and safety questions were answered and a lot of health and safety education material was handed out.

The SAFER Council raffled off a Hi-Viz jacket and road side emergency kit.

SAFER would like to thank the TLA for another very successful conference and we look forward to next years in Victoria.



TLA Executive Director David Elstone draws the winning ticket for the Hi-Viz SAFER jacket.



The jacket winner Jesse Drover of JBM Falling Ltd is seen here putting the jacket to work on a ClimMax steep slope harvester on East Thurlow

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