

HAZARD ALERT

Industry: Demolition

Age: 58

Experience: 40 years

Area: Northern BC

Ironworker drowns trying to swim to shore

A tramway system that crossed a large, fast-moving river was being disassembled. It was in a remote location with no road access. A large-diameter cable approximately 590 feet long and weighing almost 2,000 pounds had been dropped across the bottom of the river. The workers were using a jet boat to pull the cable across to one shore where it could be cut up for disposal. The boat was not equipped or designed for towing.

While it was being pulled, the cable became lodged on the river bottom, anchoring the boat by the stern. Water poured over the transom and the two workers jumped into the river. Neither was wearing a personal flotation device. Only one worker was able to swim to shore.

Safe work practices:

- Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) when working on or near water where there is a risk of drowning
- Ensure that the equipment used for a specific procedure has been designed to perform that procedure
- Establish effective means to call for help when working in remote locations, before work begins



There is a wide range of lightweight and comfortable PFDs that meet WCB requirements.



**FATALITY
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