

Big Bar Landslide Incident Safety

Safety is the top priority of the Big Bar Landslide unified command incident management team. The slide occurred in a very remote and narrow section of the rapid moving Fraser River. The slide site is surrounded by steep, vertical grounds where a large section of the river bank has been deemed inoperable. Actions are being taken to establish rock stability and mitigate identified hazards. Contingency plans are in place to address challenges resulting from rising water levels, unstable weather conditions and river debris.

Rock scaling work to establish safe access to the base of the incident is being carried out by contracted professionals. These professionals specialize in remote rope access using a system of ropes, harnesses and additional safety equipment. Rock scalers repel from the top of the slope to the base of the slope to remove hazardous debris and loose rock. Helicopter water bucketing is assisting the rock scalers to sluice debris as required. Geotechnical specialists are quantifying the overall stability of the area using light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology. In addition, specialists are using three-dimensional photogrammetry for scale and perspective of the slide site.

The Canadian Coast Guard is providing expertise regarding operational water safety. A swift water safety plan is being developed in coordination with Swift Water Rescue Canada. The unified command and incident safety officer continue to ensure Work Safe BC and Canada Labour Code standards are met.

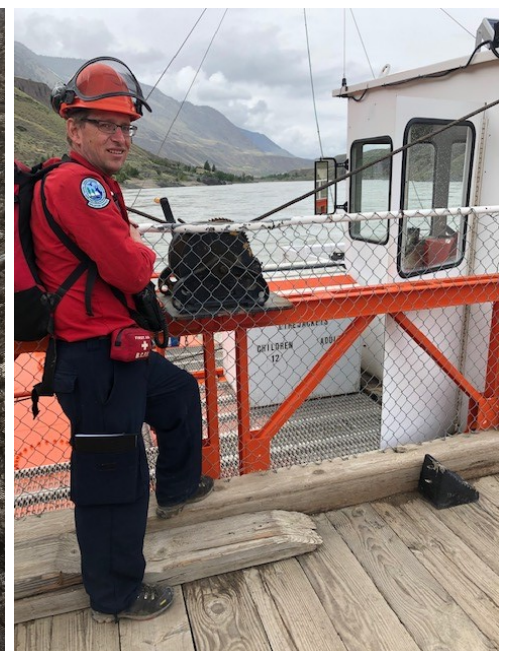
Crews used low impact techniques to create a helipad that can be used for emergency extraction. This is a precautionary measure to ensure the safe removal of personnel, should personnel be exposed to unforeseen hazardous elements.



LiDAR is being used to quantify site stability.



Engineering Geologist, Sam, uses a system of ropes and harnesses to safely assess the slide site.



Incident safety officer, Gary, enroute to the slide site.