

### **SAFETY BULLETIN / HAZARD ALERT**

On November 25, 2006 a three man slashing crew was inadvertently left in the field overnight at a remote worksite where temperatures in the range of minus thirty were recorded. The incident has been classified as a near miss, but had the potential for causing serious injuries. No injuries were sustained as the men were experienced woodsmen and although they did not have radio communication, were equipped with good clothing, chainsaws, gasoline, matches and some food. The stranded men complied with the safe work orientation training that was in place to deal with a situation such as this: stay put, remain calm and build a fire for warmth and to signal distress.

GeoStrata's corporate philosophy is such that every incident offers a learning opportunity and a chance to improve our safety program and we feel we would be remiss in failing to share the findings of our investigation with our peers.

Through our investigation we have identified that safe work procedures and policies were in place, being adhered to and working well until the morning of this incident. We further believe that this near miss was an anomaly to a functioning safety program with a low risk of reoccurrence. What in effect occurred was that six poor decisions were made independently at the same time and on the same day and that a reasonable person could not have foreseen the sequence of events which unfolded during the course of this incident. The Prime Contractor and the General Contractor both had operational and safety management on program prior to and at the time of the incident and with our combined experience was unable to predict the series of redundancy failures that led to this incident.

GeoStrata is concerned that a fundamental communication process is being missed in our industry. Infield communication must be tested prior to leaving workers in the field:

**The "transporter" (helicopter pilot, line truck driver, etc.) of field workers must verify and ensure transmit/receive communication with all field crews dispatched in remote locations prior to leaving the dispatch site.**

We have amended our policy to incorporate this basic act of communication between "transporters" and field crews and until such time as two-way communications can be confirmed our field crews will not be left on the ground. We encourage our peers to evaluate their communication procedures to include this fundamental process. Person-check procedures and other redundancies also follow this basic requirement.

We believe that this process is so fundamental that it should be legislated and we will work with the appropriate regulators to initiate a regulation review on this matter.

Any questions may be addressed to:

**GeoStrata Resources Inc.**  
Valerie Reid  
403-319-0922

**Tartan Loss Control Ltd.**  
Rob Fraser  
250-789-9439