



Vibe Tips on Slippery Hill

CAGC SAFETY ALERT

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Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors

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Safety Alert

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Details:

In January, on a stake-less source seismic survey, a vibrator operator was proceeding downhill to obtain a source point. Halfway down the hill, the operator placed the pad down and began shaking the source point. The vibrating motion caused the machine to start sliding downhill. The vibrator operator could not stop the machine from sliding and it continued downhill approximately 10 to 15 feet before the front wheel caught the ground, causing the vibrator to tip on its side. The operator quickly turned off the machine and notified his supervisor. As the operator exited the machine, he noticed oil leaking, and proceeded to clean up the oil with the spill kit and mitigate any further fluids from contacting the ground. No injury occurred to the operator, as he was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the event. There was minor damage to the vibrator unit, and no damage to the environment.

Causes:

- Ground Conditions- Terrain and slippery conditions from snowpack melting and freezing.
- Operator inexperienced in this type of terrain, and did not perform a proper assessment.
- Operator did not attempt to skid or offset the source point, instead rather chose to shake at the location.

Mitigations and Corrective Actions:

- Discussed the incident with the operator and reviewed the incident details with all personnel during the next safety meeting.
- Scouting ahead of the vibrators is essential to assist in avoiding further incidents. Vibrator Operators were instructed to get out and assess any questionable elevation changes they encounter.
- Vibrator Operators were also instructed that if required, that they should skid or offset the source point for terrain.