

# FATALGRAM 19-02

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
Division of Labor & Safety Standards  
Occupational Safety & Health



**Date of incident:** October 24, 2019

**Industry:** Road Construction/Logging

**Location:** Sitka Katlian Bay Road Project

**Summary:** While working on clearing timber for the Katlian Road extension project, a mudslide occurred that caused an operator and his excavator to slide downhill into Katlian Bay.

**Description of Accident:** A 62 year old employee died while working as part of a 4 man crew that was clearing timber on the South shore of Katlian Bay in preparation of the road extension project. The weather was on and off rain with low dark clouds and occasional lighting. The employee was working on the east side of the hill removing logs and stumps in preparation to building a spot from where he could continue to work, when the ground underneath the excavator gave away and slid into the bay, taking the excavator with it. The operator was unable to exit the excavator.

## **Accident Prevention Recommendations:**

- Ensure all safety measures are applied prior to initiating the task at hand as stated in Logging Operations.
- "Environmental conditions." All work shall terminate and each employee shall move to a place of safety when environmental conditions, such as but not limited to, electrical storms, strong winds which may affect the fall of a tree, heavy rain or snow, extreme cold, dense fog, fires, mudslides, and darkness, create a hazard for the employee in the performance of the job.
- Establish and implement a safety and health program consisting of daily efforts to demonstrate management commitment and employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.