



Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident

SAFETY ALERT

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Enform

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This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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Description of Incident:

A three-person crew left a well site location at 7:00 am during daylight hours with clear visibility. The highway was covered with snow and icy patches. The crew drove for approximately 15 minutes when they crested a long, low-angle hill. As they began to descend the other side, a third party pickup truck that was ascending the hill from the other direction lost control and skidded sideways across the center line and into their lane. The driver of the three-person crew immediately steered hard to the right, but did not have enough time or space to avoid a collision. The third party truck was struck on the passenger side door, with the initial impact coming primarily from the front driver side of the crew vehicle. The incident resulted in three fatalities: the two occupants of the third party truck, and the crew's driver.



Despite attempting an evasive maneuver, the driver – who was one of a three-person crew – crashed into the oncoming vehicle and was killed.



Damage to the third party pickup truck that skidded across the centre line, resulting in the death of both occupants.

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Corrective/Preventive Actions:

Investigation provided the following recommendations:

- Drive defensively and expect the unexpected. Remember, third party drivers are unpredictable.
- Be aware that although people may have experience with winter driving conditions, they are out-of-practice at the beginning of the winter season and their skill level is lower. This is evidenced by the increased driving incidents following the first snow fall.
- Even with experienced drivers, driving speeds must be adjusted to allow adequate time and space to react defensively.
- When ascending or descending snow and ice-covered hills, keep a steady pace and do not accelerate excessively which can cause loss of traction. Pick-ups should have added weight in the truck bed and be in four-wheel-drive mode.
- Always drive to the speed of the road conditions, which is not necessarily the posted speed limit.

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