

FATAL ALERT

On April 16, 2016, an employee of a local ranch company left the home area on an all-terrain vehicle to feed and corral sheep for the night. After the employee did not return at nightfall, employees were sent out to search the area for the missing employee. The missing employee was found unresponsive with the all-terrain vehicle he was operating resting on top of him. On the day of the incident there was a significant snowstorm that had caused whiteout conditions.

Significant Factors

- Employee was not wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment.
- Employee was not adequately trained in the operation of the all-terrain vehicle.
- Weather conditions were potentially a significant factor with some whiteout conditions reported.

Recommendations

- Brief all employees about the circumstances of this incident.
- Train employees in the safe operation of all-terrain vehicles to be used.
- Ensure all employees have proper Personal Protective Equipment, are trained on how and when to use it, and enforce its use.