

# **Fatal Alert**

On September 8, 2014, A sub-contracted worker conducting Ecological Assessment Services in Bridger Teton Nation Forest was attack by a bear and later found dead by a search team. The employee was working alone with minimal communication equipment and minimal personal protective equipment.

## **Significant Factors**

- The employer had not established and enforced adequate health and safety standards for the type of work being performed.
- The employer did not adequately assess the hazards of the work environment.
- The employer to provide or furnish adequate personal protective equipment to employee.
- The employer did not ensure or require adequate methods of communication for field workers.

## **Recommendations**

- Furnish and verify employees have adequate protective equipment to help prevent contact with bears by providing them with bear spray, have them wear noise making devices such as bells,
- Require employees to submit a trip itinerary, and
- Require employees to follow check-in procedures while working in the Bridger Teton National Forest.