

FATALGRAM 18-02

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



Date of incident: October 1, 2018

Industry: Mining Support

Location: Remote drill site, Admiralty Island, Alaska

Summary: A driller's helper was killed by three brown bears while walking down a foot path through woods.

Description of Accident: An 18-year-old male died from injuries sustained when he was attacked by three brown bears while walking down a footpath between an exploratory drilling rig and a water pump. The Victim's co-worker observed three bears, a sow and two large cubs, near the drilling pad around the time the victim was supposed to be returning from a routine check of a water pump located approximately 1000 feet from the drilling rig through dense woods. The Co-worker could not reach the victim on a hand-held radio and called for the support helicopter to fly over. This fly over confirmed that the three bears had attacked the victim. Mine crew responded and eventually all three bears were killed.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Ensure proper training of employees who will be working in remote areas where dangerous wildlife is present
- Ensure that employees working around dangerous wildlife are protected during all work activities. Walking and working in groups is recommended.
- If necessary, provide additional protection in the form of guards, to warn and protect employees from dangerous wildlife.
- Employees given self-defense items such as firearms or "bear spray" must be trained on the proper way to carry and deploy the systems.