

Man dies at Adams Lake mill

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Adams Lake Lumber is in mourning this week.

Dale Malberg, a 37-year-old millwright, lost his life in an industrial accident shortly after 3 a.m., Saturday, May 26.

Malberg, a Chase resident who worked at the mill for 12 years, was part of a two-person team, working on a conveyor system that had become jammed.

"Under circumstances that are yet unclear, Dale attempted to unjam the equipment when it started up, causing his death," said a sombre Ian Fillinger, general manager of Canadian Whitewood Manufacturing, a division of Interfor, owners of Adams Lake Lumber. "Dale's family was notified a short time after the accident. There were no other injuries and we have started an internal investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident."

Fillinger said the mill was closed down until Monday in order to give employees time to deal with the tragedy.

"We met and are currently meeting with our employees to discuss this, offer support to those who need it, and to prepare for the days ahead," Fillinger said, thanking police agencies, WorkSafe BC and Victims Support personnel for their professionalism and help in this extremely difficult time. "We extend our sincere condolences and our hearts go out to the Malberg family."

Fillinger says safety is the number-one priority at the mill as it is throughout the entire company. Adams Lake was the winner of Interfor's 2006 President's Award for outstanding safety.

He says safety is a priority every day and notes employees are recognized for their safety efforts. As well, he says the mill complies with all regulations, regularly undergoes intensive internal and external safety inspections and has a good working relationship with WorkSafe BC.

"Regardless of whether we had the best or worst safety record, we have a co-worker who has lost his life," he said, noting that the focus at the moment is on the loss.

"That's what matters to me."