Prospecting Helper Dies in Wilderness

A new worker on a mining prospecting job became separated from his companions in the wilderness and died of exposure to the cold.

He had no experience on this type of job. After a day of working in the woods in deep snow, he and a companion were attempting to return to camp. The victim became exhausted and could not carry on. When his companion realized the victim was not following, he began to search for him. Darkness fell and he returned to camp to get help. The search party found the victim after he had spent about seven hours sitting in the snow in very cold temperatures. He still showed signs of life, but efforts to revive him failed.

A course in survival and first aid is essential for working outdoors. Workers must receive training and reminders about hazards such as falling trees, slippery rock surfaces, hypothermia, chainsaw and axe injuries. Outdoor workers should also use communication devices to keep in touch. One member of the crew traveling in the wilderness should be designated as the leader to make survival decisions.