

Day of Mourning

April 28, 2017





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“Day of Mourning” is a day intended to recognize those who lost their lives as a result of a work-related incident or occupational diseases.

Ceremonies have been held across the country ever since the Canadian Labour Congress initiated a national Day of Mourning ceremony on April 28, 1984 and is now recognized annually around the world in more than 100 countries.

April 28th was chosen because it was on this date in 1914 that the first Workers’ Compensation Act was brought into effect in Canada.

Deaths from workplace injury average nearly a thousand per year in Canada.

There are approximately one million workplace injuries a year in Canada – a compensable injury occurs every seven seconds of each working day.

***In 2016 there were 144
work related fatalities
in BC***

- ***10 were directly related
to forestry operations***
- ***2 were related to forest
products manufacturing***





Log Hauling

November: A log truck driver was fatally injured when he was run over by another log truck in a Midway area maintenance yard.

September: A log truck driver died in a single vehicle incident on the Elk River Forest Service Road. A loaded logging truck rolled over down a steep embankment.

August: The driver of a loaded log truck was seriously injured when his trailer went off the road, taking the tractor with it while he was travelling down a muddy hill. The driver was transported to hospital but passed away on August 18th.

Log Hauling

January: A 23-year-old man died after the empty logging truck he was trying to repair ran over him near Fraser Lake.

January: A 22-year-old log truck driver died in a logging truck incident between Princeton and Merritt.



Manual Tree Falling

September: A 23-year-old faller died near Zeballos on Vancouver Island. Preliminary information indicates that a tree he was falling impacted another tree, which struck him.

July: A faller was fatally injured while working in an area near Bella Bella. He was falling a danger tree when it broke up, fell in an unintended direction and struck him. He was airlifted to Vancouver, where he later died.





Forestry Operations

August: The owner of a log transportation firm died at the scene while attempting to jump start a tractor in the truck shop's yard in the Fraser-Fort George area. The tractor moved forward pinning the man under the rear dual tractor tires.

April: A yarder operator died in his machine, near Yale, north of Hope. The steel spar on the yarder collapsed and crushed the operator's cab.

February: An equipment operator was electrocuted near Port McNeill.



Wood Products Manufacturing

March: A 37-year-old equipment operator died at a Nanaimo pulp mill after the wood chip pile he was standing on collapsed.

January: A 62-year-old equipment operator died at a Crofton pulp mill.



Associated Fatalities

There were two associated forest harvesting fatalities in 2016:

August: A logging truck was driving along the Lougheed Highway near Harrison Mills when it tipped, sending logs rolling into the street. One of the logs struck a pickup truck and the female driver died at the scene.

August: A man was trapped in his crew cab vehicle after he came around a hair pin corner and hit an east bound logging truck. The man was seriously injured and later died in hospital.



Staying safe

We all play a role in keeping ourselves and our co-workers safe.

Take a moment to recognize how you can impact workplace safety:

- **Report unsafe acts or conditions** - don't walk by.
- **Be prepared for work** – mentally and physically. Recognize the signs when you are rushed, distracted or complacent and may be making unsafe decisions. Stop and reassess what you are about to do.
- **Take an active role** in your crew members wellbeing. If a co-worker is distracted or otherwise unfit for work talk to them or your supervisor. An injured worker impacts us all.
- **Ask for assistance** – if you are unsure of how to proceed or need additional support.



I Chose to Look The Other Way

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I'd done the same, He knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know, I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But **I chose**, to look the other way.

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Day of Mourning links

Day of Mourning website

<http://www.dayofmourning.bc.ca/>

WorkSafeBC

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/news-events/annual-campaigns/2017/April/Day-of-Mourning>

Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety

<http://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/>

BC Forest Safety Council

www.bcforestsafe.org

