



SAFE Companies soars

The Council has certified 850 forestry operations under its SAFE Companies program as of mid-August — an 86-per-cent increase over the total for 2007.

Current SAFE-certified companies include 610 small companies, 192 large ones and 48 individual owner operators.

Meanwhile, 3,708 are registered to earn certifications: 1,790 individual owner operators, 1,666 small companies and 252 large ones.

“We’re proud to help these companies build a safer, healthier forest industry,” said SAFE Companies Director Krista Bax.

Certification made 'a better company'

Silviculture safety in B.C. has improved, bringing better recruitment and retention and lower sector-wide costs and reductions in WorkSafeBC premiums for 2008.

The SAFE Companies program helped make this happen for companies like Zanzibar Holdings Ltd. One of the first to earn certification in 2007, it has emphasized safety since being formed 25 years ago by Tony Harrison and Gord Saunders.

“Having people work safely was always one of our values,” said Harrison. “Today any company going down this path has a competitive advantage. It’s more or less the rule throughout our industry.”

He sees SAFE Companies incorporating safety meaningfully into daily business. “The program recognizes some “documentation is super important” and helps find “the best way to get information to workers and back from the work site.”

“It took us to another level. We became a better company, not only because of safety, but because it had carry-over benefits in our day-to-day production.” Harrison said a key factor is “educating planters that safety’s important and they’ll actually make more because we’ve managed their safety.”

Pat Bell brings forestry experience

Pat Bell took over as B.C. Minister of Forests and Range this summer, and the good news is that he’s no stranger to us.

As the MLA for Prince George North since 2001, he has been supportive of the Council, Forestry TruckSafe and our road safety initiatives — working with us on local resource and public road issues around logging truck traffic and harvesting traffic.

He is a member of Treasury Board and has served as Minister of Agriculture and Lands and Minister of State for Mining. Previous committee assignments included the government’s Caucus Committee on Natural Resources, the Small Scale Salvage Review Committee and the Select Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

The Council sees Pat Bell as a former logger and trucker who understands the issues faced by forestry companies and the people who work for them.

We look forward to working with him on the vital task of improving forest safety while making our industry healthy again.

Tanner Elton, CEO



NEW MINISTER OF FORESTS AND RANGE PAT BELL MEETING LAST WINTER WITH FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE DIRECTOR MARYANNE ARCAND.



BC Forest Safety Council

Unsafe is Unacceptable

Forest Safety News is published by the BC Forest Safety Council to inform members and others about workplace health-and-safety developments affecting the forest industry.

Have a story or comments? Contact us at news@bcforestsafecouncil.org.

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Standard radio protocols tested for resource roads

A pilot project for standardized radio protocols was launched in late July for resource roads on Vancouver Island and in the Sunshine Coast and Tumbler Ridge areas.

It was developed by a working group with representatives from the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR), Industry Canada, the BC Forest Safety Council and FP Innovations.

"In my years in the logging and trucking industry, I recognized the importance of safe radio practices," said Forests Minister Pat Bell. "It always concerned me that practices were not common from one road system to another."

The pilot uses a block of dedicated resource road radio channels, standardized call procedures and road signage with information like radio channel and call frequency. Sample signs are at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/media/bell/2008/07/31/index.htm>. The project will be evaluated this fall prior to considering province-wide implementation.

Forestry TruckSafe Director MaryAnne Arcand, the Council's working group representative, called the pilot "a great example of a partnership that's working."

A new face at WorkSafeBC

Tom Bailey has been appointed WorkSafeBC Manager for Industry and Labour Services—Forestry and will represent the health and safety agency on the Council's Board of Directors.

He replaces Michael Paine, now in another WorkSafeBC position in Kamloops.

Bailey's career began in 1966 with 10 years in mill operations and forestry planning for Weldwood of Canada/McMillan Bloedel, and six years at WorkSafeBC.

He then worked at BC Hydro until 2007, in manager positions for corporate safety, rates and tariffs and environment. Most recently, he worked with independent power producers at BC Transmission Corporation.

A Canadian Registered Safety Professional, Bailey chaired the Industrial Advisory Committee that designed and implemented BCIT's Occupational Safety and Health Technology program.

Free conference looks at dealing with human factors behind injuries

Substance abuse, fatigue, technological change, an aging workforce — ways to combat these and other human factors that drive injuries will be discussed at a free cooperative safety conference on November 1 in Qualicum Beach.

Human Factors – Why bad things happen to good people is the theme of the conference, organized by an industry-union steering committee representing forestry, wood products manufacturing, pulp and paper and WorkSafeBC. Registration by October 15 is recommended, as space is limited.

The Council's committee representative, Steve Mueller, says the goal is to find new ways of helping workers, owner-operators and employers reduce and ultimately eliminate on-the-job fatalities and serious injuries associated with human factors.

Conference attendance satisfies the SAFE Companies BASE audit requirement and the eight-hour safety committee training requirement in the Workers' Compensation Act.

These topics and presenters had been scheduled as this went to press:

- > *Redefining Impairment*; MaryAnn Arcand, Forestry TruckSafe Director
- > *Identifying Hazards/Assessing Risk: Keys to Success*; Ross Munro, Western Forest Products Inc. Environmental Health and Safety Advisor
- > *Under the Surface: Incident Root Causes*; Michael Duff, WorkSafeBC Safety Officer

As the conference is free, each participant is asked to bring a non-perishable donation to the United Steelworkers Food Bank.

For more information, phone Chris Warburton at WorkSafeBC's Nanaimo office, 250-751-8060, or email visc@bcforestsafe.org. Registration forms are at www.bforestsafe.org/content-nav-news/content-nav-mediacentre/news-08-05-08-VISC_reg_form.doc.

Coming attractions

Sept 8-11 — Annual General Meeting of Forestry Nursery Association of B.C., Surrey; details at www.fnabc.com

Oct 23-24 — Work Drug Free Conference of BC Council on Substance Abuse (formerly known as Action North), Prince George; phone 250-649-4000, fax 250-649-4003 or email teresa@workdrugfreebc.com

