



Streamlining and focus from governance model

The Board of Directors approved a new Council governance model in June.

Now operational, the structure consists of an Executive Committee comprising the chairs of the existing five Board Committees and a member-at-large representing the harvesting sector.

Members of the Executive Committee are: Governance Committee Chair Anne Mauch, Human Resources Committee Chair Rick Jeffery, Program Committee Chair Kevin Davie, Forest Products Manufacturing Committee Chair Ron Corbeil, Audit and Finance Committee Chair Jim Hackett and Member-at-Large Reid Hedlund.

Representatives of the 15 member organizations continue to make up the full Board.

Key Board functions under the new structure include:

- » Taking a leadership role in fostering the reduction of forestry injuries and fatalities and the improvement of industry safety
- » Approving the Council's strategic plan, work plan and annual budget
- » Electing the Executive Committee and approving its terms of reference
- » Appointing the Council's Chair, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer

Executive Committee functions include:

- » Taking actions necessary for the Council's smooth functioning
- » Monitoring, reviewing and approving management actions
- » Identifying key issues needing Board discussion
- » Ensuring implementation of Board decisions and that appropriate Council policies are in place

"This streamlines and adds focus to our decision-making," said Board Chair Bev Briscoe. She noted that the new model will be reassessed at the Council's annual general meeting in December.

Tough safety questions

In these difficult industry times, operators are asking tough questions about how safety pays, or whether reducing injuries is a cost to their operations.

Operating without serious injury is a mindset. You either choose to operate in a manner where you constantly question what parts of your operation could hurt people; or you operate by reacting to circumstances. Reacting sometimes leads to unpleasant surprises.

Choosing to operate safely implies planning to eliminate surprises. You use well-designed equipment the way it was meant to be operated, with well-trained, skilled operators and use the right tools in the right way. It means constantly checking your operations for potential difficulties, and making a plan to manage them.

The SAFE Companies program audit is a tool to check if an operation is ready to do business. It's hard for me to imagine how a company that chooses to react — by not planning, having the wrong equipment, or operators with poor knowledge, or the wrong tools, or rarely checking for potential difficulties — can expect to operate better than a company that prepares to do business well, all the time.

Fortunately, the number of SAFE-certified companies is still increasing in spite of the financially difficult times, and not surprisingly, the injury rate in our harvesting sector is dropping per hundred thousand cubic meters of wood harvested.



REYNOLD HERT, CEO

SAFE-certification rebates

About 1,700 forestry operations SAFE-certified last year and meeting WorkSafeBC requirements should start receiving rebates on 2008 assessments in July. This is more than triple the number of companies that received rebates a year ago.

Further benefits for having a health and safety management system will be realized in 2010 as the Council's SAFE Companies program has now certified nearly 2,200 operations.



To achieve safety, 'inspire frontline workers'



Because systems alone don't add up to safety, it's not enough for resource industry managers to develop and implement safety programs. They must truly inspire the frontline workers and address the complexity of risks they face on the job every day.

When accidents happen, we easily and simplistically "see" in hindsight how it happened and what should have been done. But it is very different when you are inside the situation and looking "forward," without "armchair knowledge."

Those were the key messages in a presentation by international safety consultant Corrie Pitzer to the June meeting of the Council's Board of Directors.

The frontline worker when running machinery "to move dirt, logs or whatever deals with many risks, and complex ones," he said, calling this "the ultimate edge of the business." It is the workers' ability to operate at that edge which ultimately determines the success of any business.

"The more resources we invest in a safety program," he added, "the more we get a rising curve of improved safety — which eventually reaches a plateau. When

Coming attractions

September 20-26 — National Forestry Week events at various locations; information at www.bcforestsafe.org

September 23-24 — Conference of USW-Forest Industry Safety and Health Research Program, Prince George; details at www.conifer.ca/site/12/sharp

September 23-24 — Canadian Institute of Forestry Annual General Meeting, Nanaimo; details at www.viu.ca/cif/

October 2 — Vancouver Island Safety Conference organized by the Council, other industry groups, USW and WorkSafeBC, Qualicum Beach; check www.bcforestsafe.org or email mueller@bcforestsafe.org

October 21-22 — Fit to Drive, CrossRoads Road Safety Conference, Prince George; details at www.roadhealth.org

adding more resources and protections, we can even increase the risk of human error."

Workers feel surrounded by protection, he explained, and develop "an illusion of safety." To overcome this, management "must drive awareness, caring and commitment," said Corrie. The process may start in the board room, but it must be completed where the real work is done. Truly involving workers and their immediate supervisors is imperative, he said, "to get beyond the plateaus in performance."

With 25 years experience in resource industry safety, Corrie Pitzer entered the field as a human resources manager in mining. He founded and runs a leading international consultancy in behavioural safety with offices in Canada, Australia, Chile, Brazil, Guatemala and South Africa. For more information, go to www.safemap.com.

Better prevention a goal of new fatality statistics

The Council has changed the way it reports fatal incidents so that the industry can improve its focus on preventing forest workers' deaths and injuries.

The change involves classifying fatalities in two ways:

- » Direct fatalities are those occurring within the scope of control of a forestry company.
- » Associated fatalities are those related to forest operations but not under the scope of control of a forestry company.

This has no impact on the Council's policy of reporting all forestry-related fatalities and publishing as much relevant information as possible without violating privacy and other restrictions.

The new fatality classifications are now used in data reporting on the Council website at www.bcforestsafe.org. They also appear in our *Progress Report 2008-09*, available at www.bcforestsafe.org/other/site-final/Welcome.htm

For more information on any Council statistics, please call Program Officer James Raymond on 604-696-3958, or email raymond@bcforestsafe.org.

