

## Earning new rebates

Large SAFE-certified companies can qualify for additional five-per-cent rebates on their 2009 WorkSafeBC assessments by successfully completing and submitting an injury management and return to work (IM/RTW) audit tool by December 31.

The Council's Executive Committee approved the new optional SAFE Companies module in October. It looks at employer programs designed to help injured workers stay at work, possibly in modified duties, or return to safe and productive employment as soon as possible.

An external auditor trained in IM/RTW must conduct the initial certification audit, which is at [www.bcforestsafe.org/files/files/SAFE\\_Companies/injury\\_mgmt.pdf](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/files/SAFE_Companies/injury_mgmt.pdf). Send questions on this to Audit Services Manager Andrew Chan at [chan@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:chan@bcforestsafe.org).

Choosing not to complete the new module doesn't affect the separate 10-per-cent WorkSafeBC rebate available with SAFE-certification.

## FPM certifications

B.C.'s forest product manufacturers (FPM) now have access to the SAFE Companies program, following an October decision by the Council's Executive Committee.

The new policy is in line with WorkSafeBC's "natural alignment" concept, which allows certification of employers that have no health and safety association, but operate in related sectors.

FPM employers will pay regular fees and use the existing large employer audit protocols to earn SAFE-certification. Companies completing audits by the end of December could be eligible for partial rebates next year on WorkSafeBC assessments paid for during 2009. Details are at [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org).

Meanwhile, the Council continues consulting with the FPM sector on the idea of becoming its health and safety association, including training and other sector support programs.

Funding for the FPM consultations and the SAFE Companies extension is separate from the Council's ongoing woodlands safety programs.

## We value your input



As Council staff attend industry meetings or visit operations, we often get feedback on the progress of forest safety.

The 250 people attending the Vancouver Island Safety conference in October gave us quite a bit of feedback. They discussed and shared best safety practices and provided comments to WorkSafeBC and Council representatives.

While people noted that progress had been made, they also pointed to numerous opportunities still remaining, including:

- » Improving Council systems that have already been established, such as SAFE Companies, before taking on significant new areas.
- » Raising the industry's skill level in recognizing hazards and assessing risks.
- » Taking steps to increase accountability for injury-free operations at all levels through consistency, industry-wide standards, communication, supervisors' intervention and employee involvement.
- » Continuing to improve training, focusing on areas where the most serious injuries occur and providing additional training resources
- » The Council and WorkSafeBC making sure their efforts are complementary, not creating different priorities for the industry.

Leadership at the Council appreciates the input. We are reviewing our plans to use what we heard, and we will give you updates on what progress has been made. Thank you to everyone who has given the Council input. We value your help.

REYNOLD HERT, CEO

## For transportation safety

Chuck Carter, RPF, is joining the Council staff in December as Prince-George-based Director of Transportation Safety.

He will be responsible for expanding the previous Forestry TruckSafe program into all areas of transportation safety, with a focus on resource roads.

Chuck has 25 years' woodlands operations experience, most recently as safety coordinator for all of Canfor's B.C. and Alberta woodlands operations.



## Council recognizes 'true safety leaders'



JACK MILLER AND ROGER WHITTAKER

The Council presented its annual provincial safety awards in October, with CEO Reynold Hert recognizing the two recipients as "true safety leaders."

Jack Miller is a faller with Western Forest Products in Port McNeill. He received the 2009 Cary White Memorial Award for demonstrating steadfast commitment to improving awareness, expanding

safety knowledge and developing safety skills on the ground.

Roger Whittaker is safety coordinator for 3 Leaf Contracting in Powell River. He received the "MVP" Safety Leader of the Year Award for promoting forest safety by developing initiatives or innovations making a difference in forest worker safety.

Details on the winners, the presentation with B.C. Labour Minister Murray Coell and the awards program is at [www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1407](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1407).

## Forest safety briefs

**Cutting edge:** Targeting non-fallers, the Council's new basic chainsaw training covers essential saw maintenance, correct chain filing and safe cutting techniques; details at [www.bcforestsafe.org/training.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/training.html).

**Safety alerts:** Transporting workers by vehicle and resource road bridge loads are the subjects of the Council's monthly safety alerts for October and November; see [www.bcforestsafe.org/safety\\_info/alerts\\_bulletins.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/safety_info/alerts_bulletins.html).

**Rules of the road:** A new safety management system for South Peace Forest District resource roads took effect in October; check the WorkSafeBC bulletin at [bcforestsafe.org/node/1447](http://bcforestsafe.org/node/1447).

## Industry happenings

### Driving in the bush

Saturdays through December 12 — "Fuel Efficiencies in the Bush", free Central Interior Logging Association training sessions combining the Smart Driver for Forestry course and Fuel Management 101 workshops; various locations; toll-free information at 1-877-562-5668.

### Kids' eye views

Winners in this fall's National Forest Week children's art contest are at [bcforestsafe.org/node/1455](http://bcforestsafe.org/node/1455). Sponsors are the Council, the Truck Loggers Association and the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

## Driving down injuries and fatalities



*This profile continues a series on organizations represented on the Council's Board. The Coast Forest Products Association acts for companies with 60 per cent of timber harvesting and 85 per cent of both wood manufacturing and pulp and paper production in coastal B.C.*

"We have an incredible safety focus because integrating safety as a way of doing business results in lower costs, higher productivity and better worker morale," says Coast Forest President and CEO Rick Jeffrey, RPF.

"Our members have "committed to and embraced the SAFE Companies program. Participating at the Council's technical advisory and Board levels, we're seeing declines in serious injuries and incidents in harvesting, but the work's not done."

Rick describes Coast Forest's role as "continual engagement to make sure SAFE Companies is streamlined,

efficient and delivering results on the ground."

He looks for the same kind of process to be followed as the program accepts manufacturing sector employers (story on Page 1).

Most Coast Forest member companies "will pursue SAFE-certification actively," says Rick. "They've seen the benefits on the harvesting side, and they want to get on with that on the mill side to drive down injuries and fatalities."

SAFE Companies means clear, practical standards for successful health and safety programs, according to Rick, and "that's crucial for both companies and employees."

More on the Coast Forests Forest Products Association is at [www.coastforest.org/index.html](http://www.coastforest.org/index.html).

