

SAFE
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BC **Forest Safety** Council

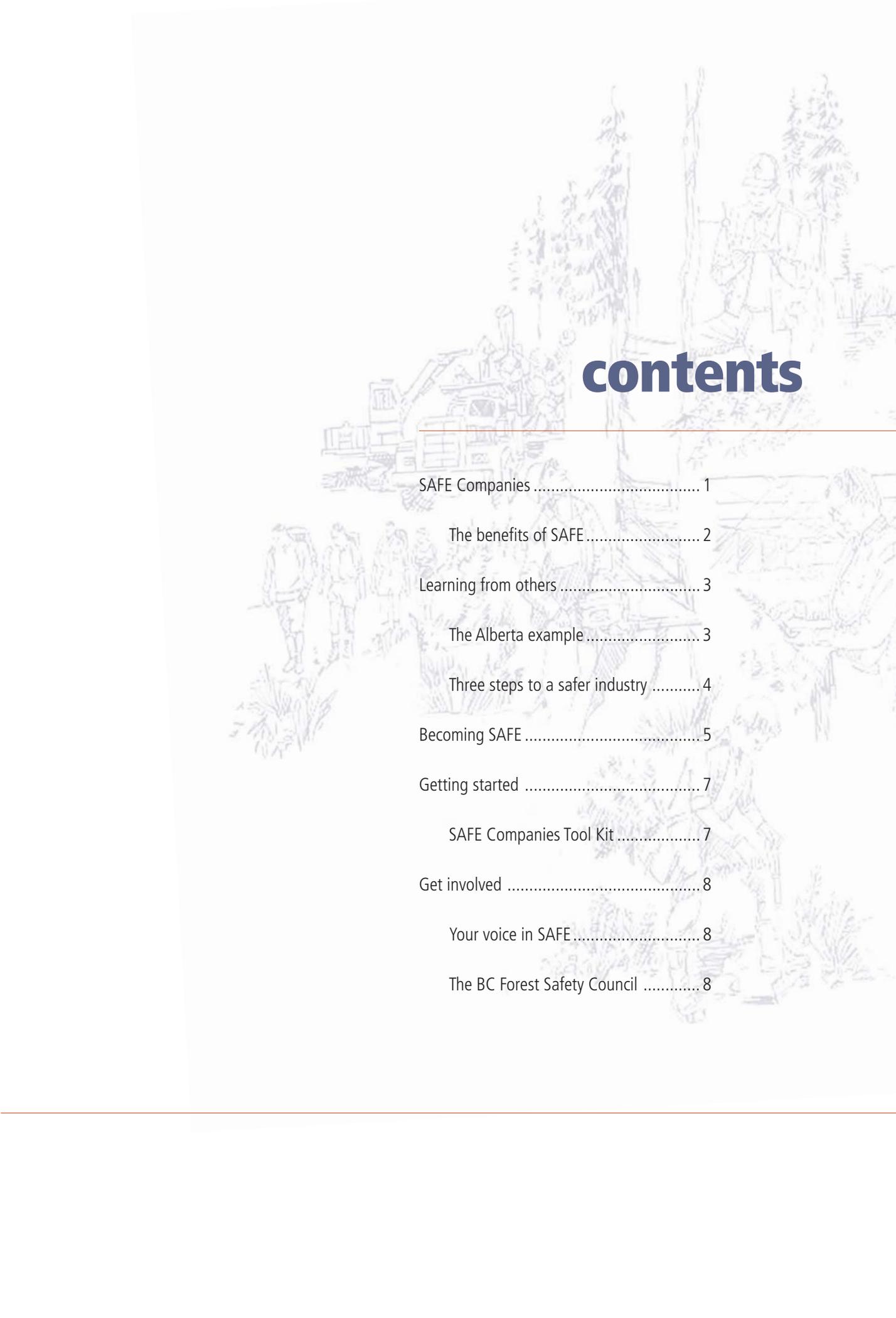
SAFE Companies

Leading the way to safety excellence

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Safety Accord Forest Enterprise





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MAKING OUR INDUSTRY SAFER, ONE COMPANY AT A TIME

SAFE companies

The SAFE Companies program is a major BC Forest Safety Council initiative to improve forest industry safety. SAFE stands for Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise.

An unacceptable safety record has been a long-term problem in BC's forest industry. And we know the cost of a poor safety record is too high for our families, co-workers and businesses. We must change how we approach and deal with safety in

our industry. SAFE Companies is an important part of that change.

The SAFE Companies program provides forest companies with clear, practical standards so that they can establish and maintain successful health and safety programs that fit their needs. In addition, qualifying as SAFE makes a company eligible for a rebate of at least 5% on WCB payments.



The benefits of SAFE

In addition to the 5% rebate, there are immediate and long term benefits to being a SAFE company. Saving lives and reducing injuries and human suffering are the most obvious and important benefits.

But it also makes good business sense.

A company with a half million dollar payroll that adopts SAFE standards and improves their safety record could save \$60,000 per year in WCB payments when compared to an unsafe competitor that still has a bad safety record.

This upfront saving doesn't include the indirect costs of being unsafe—lower productivity as workers recover from injuries, the cost of finding and training new people and the time and effort to fill out paperwork after incidents.

Forest companies also have a legal obligation to maintain a safe workplace. Qualifying as a SAFE company ensures that your company can demonstrate due diligence—a key factor in dealing with WCB penalties and, in the worst case, prosecution in the event of workplace incidents.

Some companies are already applying SAFE principles in choosing who they contract or partner with.

Soon, a SAFE qualification will improve your ability to bid on work in the province, and we anticipate that it will eventually be an industry-wide requirement.

Also in the long term, as more companies qualify as SAFE Companies and forest safety improves, WCB base rates across our industry could fall, saving your company even more.



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learning from others

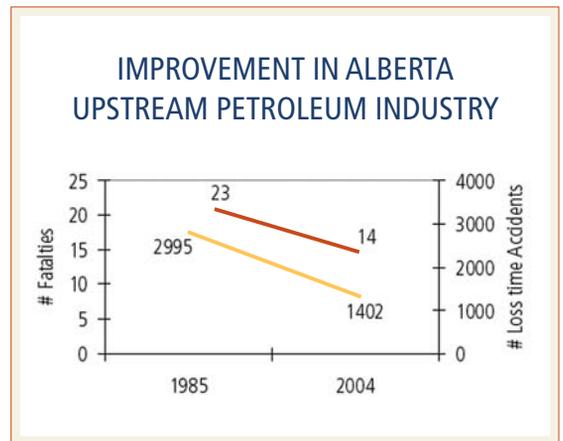
Making the move to SAFE Companies – the Alberta example

In the late 1980s, the Alberta oil fields were known in the industry as the killing fields. The high number of accidents, deaths and injuries in the oil fields gave the Alberta oil and gas industry an extremely poor health and safety record resulting in high WCB costs, lower productivity and increased indirect costs.

To turn the record around, the Alberta oil and gas industry started the Certificate of Recognition (COR) program. Like the SAFE program, COR set practical health and safety standards across the industry. Fifteen years later, most companies now meet

these standards and the industry has one of the best safety records in Canada. COR is required for companies bidding on oil and gas contracts.

Alberta's forest industry also introduced COR and has begun to achieve savings in WCB premiums.



Three steps to a safer BC forest industry

1. BECOME A SAFE COMPANY.

This means that your company has programs and procedures in place in order to save lives and reduce accidents in BC's forests.

2. BE AN INDUSTRY LEADER FOR SAFETY.

Set an example of continuously looking for ways to improve your safety programs and performance. Share information and expertise that will help others avoid safety problems. Adapt and use Industry Recognized Practices (IRPs) where they exist; they are the way that you can learn from the experience of others. Publicly endorse the program, letting the public, your customers, your

employees and other industry members know that your company is working toward a safer, healthier industry.

3. SUPPORT A SAFE INDUSTRY.

Only when every forest company working in BC is a SAFE company, and only when a SAFE qualification is required to work on forestry sites, will we begin to see sustained reductions in industry related deaths and injuries and the costs associated with them.

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becoming SAFE

Your company can qualify as SAFE by passing an audit that demonstrates you have a health and safety program that meets industry standards.

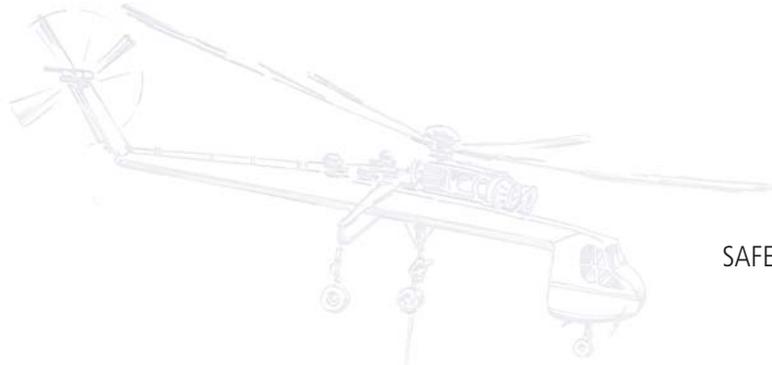
Industry members from small, medium and large companies in all parts of BC are working with the Council to develop realistic and workable SAFE Companies standards and audits.

The BC Forest Safety Council oversees the audit conducted by Council-approved auditors. Industry's SAFE Companies standards will meet and in many cases exceed WCB and legislated standards. They will be straightforward and practical interpretations of the practices that employers and employees use to harvest and get timber to market safely.

The audit will evaluate your company's health and safety program, including components such as:

- > company policies and management leadership;
- > risk and hazard management;
- > company standards, procedures and work instructions;
- > safety training, education and certification;
- > communication about health and safety;
- > incident investigation and reporting;
- > contractor management and shared safety responsibility;
- > injury management.

Small companies won't be required to do the same amount of audit work as large



SAFE Companies

companies, but all will meet the same safety standards.

Once the BC Forest Safety Council accepts the audit results, your company will become eligible for WCB rebates. Your SAFE qualification will be maintained through annual audits.

The Council will provide advice, assistance

and training for companies as they work toward becoming SAFE.

For example, the Council is developing training programs for auditors and investigators, and a straightforward “tool kit” for companies wanting to start down the road to SAFE certification.



MAKING OUR INDUSTRY SAFER, ONE COMPANY AT A TIME

getting started

You can start down the path to SAFE Companies qualification now.

The SAFE Companies Tool Kit

To help companies get a head start in the SAFE Companies program, the BC Forest Safety Council is offering a SAFE Companies Tool Kit, full of practical tools to help companies expand and improve their health and safety programs. For more information on the SAFE Companies Tool Kit, please visit the BC Forest Safety Council website (see back cover).

PILOT PROGRAMS

Pilot programs that involve a small number of companies across BC start in the spring of 2006. For information about participating in a pilot program, contact the Council.

SAFE COMPANIES LAUNCH

The full SAFE Companies program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006.

To sign up for the full SAFE Companies program, please contact the Council.



SAFE Companies

get involved

Your voice in SAFE

Because the SAFE Companies program is an industry-led initiative, your company can play a role in developing the program.

The BC Forest Safety Council has set up committees made up of industry members to make sure the SAFE Companies program meets industry needs. If you want to know more about this process, the types of standards that are being discussed and who represents you in this process, you can contact the BC Forest Safety Council.

SAFE Companies and the BC Forest Safety Council

The BC Forest Safety Council is a partnership of key forest industry decision makers. Our membership includes all major industry associations, union and government members.

Our mandate is to eliminate fatalities and injuries in BC's forest industry by creating a safe environment that encourages improved health and safety programs, performance and results.

As part of its safety mandate, the Council is developing the SAFE Companies program and will be certifying companies and recommending WCB rebates.



BC **Forest Safety** Council

SAFE Companies

Leading the way to safety excellence

Stay informed about the SAFE Companies program by signing up for automatic updates.

Visit www.bcforestsafe.org and select the 'subscribe' option.

You can contact the Council by email:
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