

## Plans to improve safety in 2010

### Chaplin brings broad experience to Council



STEVE CHAPLIN

Steve Chaplin has been appointed Director of SAFE Companies, bringing a broad range of operational experience to this key Council position.

Steve's career in the industry began 25 years ago in Mackenzie as a forest engineer before he moved to the Coast where he has been involved in heli-logging, cutblock layout, road design, contract supervision, timber

cruising and some silviculture activities. For the past four years, he was an Environment, Health, and Safety Advisor with Western Forest Products.

Steve's approach is that safety goes beyond saying the right words and taking certain actions — but that it's "a way of being."

A Registered Forestry Technologist, he graduated from BCIT's Forestry Resources Program, earned a Certificate in Health, Safety and Environmental Processes from the University of Fredericton and is currently working towards a Canadian Registered Safety Professional designation.

### Audits due December 31

SAFE-certified forestry operations of all sizes have until year-end to submit maintenance audits to maintain certification and eligibility for rebates of 2009 WorkSafeBC assessments.

Any companies without assessable 2009 payrolls can maintain certification status by submitting the No Work Activity Payroll Form; it's at [www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1465](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1465).

Submissions must be postmarked or hand-delivered to Council offices by midnight New Year's eve.

As of mid-December, three fatalities directly associated with forestry had been recorded during 2009. One death is too many, but this year's count should be the lowest number of fatalities in over a decade, even adjusting for the low harvest level.

The industry has worked hard in recent years, laying a solid foundation to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. What is remarkable is that the progress continues during a severe economic downturn.

We heard of some companies taking short cuts to get business in 2009. More common however were those making changes that improved safety and overall business operations.

In the coming year, the Council will help sustain companies' safety efforts. Here are the areas of focus:

#### SAFE COMPANIES' RENEWAL

This program has fostered the industry's safety progress, raising awareness and introducing new practices to operations across the province. We hear many comments about SAFE Companies bringing safety and business discipline to small and medium-size companies — but also concerns regarding how much work is required. We will act on this.

SAFE-certifications will undergo a renewal in the first quarter of 2010. Our new Director of SAFE Companies, Steve Chaplin, has been on the receiving end of the audit process (story at left). He understands the demands firsthand.

As Steve joins the Council, his first task is to make the audit a more effective tool for injury reduction by simplifying the process and cutting down on paperwork — without affecting safety improvements.

Anticipating this, we will notify companies that would ordinarily submit maintenance audits in the first quarter of



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## Online for you

**Funds for training** — Workers and employers may qualify for financial support through the provincial government when they take Council training. Information is at [www.bcforestsafe.org/training.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/training.html).

**Winter safety package** — Resources on working safely in extreme winter weather will be online in early January. See and download the Council package at [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org). Or phone 1-877-741-1060 to have it faxed at no cost.

**Your first aid needs** — Information on meeting WorkSafeBC requirements for first aid services is in the Council's alert of the month for December. It's at [www.bcforestsafe.org/files/December\\_AOM\\_2009-12-01\\_Completing\\_First\\_Aid\\_Assesments.pdf](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/December_AOM_2009-12-01_Completing_First_Aid_Assesments.pdf).

**Safety alerts reorganized** — The Council has improved its website presentation of company safety alerts, sorting them for viewing by different timber harvesting operations. Go to [www.bcforestsafe.org/safety\\_info/alerts\\_bulletins.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/safety_info/alerts_bulletins.html).

## Coming attractions

**January 13-14** — BC Natural Resource Forum and Economic Summit, Prince George; details at [www.eventscreators.com/Default.aspx?PageID=23](http://www.eventscreators.com/Default.aspx?PageID=23)

**January 20-21** — Truck Loggers Association annual convention, including a New Frontiers In Safety session; Victoria; details at [www.tla.ca](http://www.tla.ca).

**January 27-29** — Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association annual conference, Prince George; details at [www.wsca.ca](http://www.wsca.ca)

**April 8-9** — Association of BC Forest Professionals Annual Conference and AGM details at [www.expofor.ca](http://www.expofor.ca)

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2010 of an option to hold off doing them until the second quarter. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, 2009 audits are proceeding with the existing process.

### TRANSPORTATION FOCUS

Chuck Carter, formerly from Canfor, started as our Director of Transportation Safety in early December. His forestry operating and safety management experience will be valuable.

Although there have been no direct forestry 2009 transportation-related fatalities to date, we are aware of the need to maintain a focus on safe road, water and air transportation on the road.

### MANUAL FALLERS' SAFETY

In 2010, the Council will devote considerable attention to manual tree falling. Statistically, this is the one area without a notable change in serious injuries.

Previously, we concentrated largely on the actual cutting of the tree at the stump. But additional work is required on block planning, roadwork impact on falling, supervision, assessment of hazards above and behind the faller especially on steep slopes, as well as the falling standard.

Several technical advisory teams will be formed to review all of the existing material, and develop industry-recognized practices. This will include identifying the type of training for block planners and operating supervisors in managing the full range of circumstances encountered by fallers.

### BEING SAFETY LEADERS

Despite the real progress, much remains to be done to eliminate forestry fatalities and serious injuries.

Truly making a difference requires all of us to be safety leaders, to take individual responsibility for safety in our jobs.

In 2010, the Council intends to work with the industry to make that possible — meeting challenges and seizing opportunities on the path forward.

REYNOLD HERT, CEO



**May your holiday season, and the year to come, be happy, healthy and safe.**

From the Board and Staff of the BC Forest Safety Council

