

# Forest Safety news

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## A crucial message for you



You may soon find the Council sounding a bit like a broken record. But we have a crucial message that bears repeating – every B.C. forestry enterprise, large and small, needs to register with the SAFE Companies program and earn certification.

As I write this, we're encouraged that 1,550 companies have registered and 70 are

SAFE-certified. But many more need to join in. The greater the participation, the more effective the SAFE Companies is, and the healthier our forestry sector becomes.

This program benefits all who earn a living from the working woods, and we need your support and commitment.

SEE TOGETHER WE'LL DELIVER, PAGE 3

## Easing steep slope risk

Logs are being hauled down steeper and steeper slopes these days – two reasons being rougher terrain in interior areas infested by the pine mountain beetle and the shift of coastal harvesting to higher elevations as valleys are logged out.

The result is greater risk for truckers in situations where “we’ve been operating in a vacuum”

because the industry never had a standard operating procedure (SOP), according to MaryAnne Arcand, the Council’s director of Forestry TruckSafe and northern initiatives.

That’s changing now with a SOP for steep slope hauling by off-highway trucks, introduced this June and expected to be required by WorkSafeBC.

The SOP builds on existing steep slope descent guidelines developed by the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada (FERIC). Key features are a risk management tool and a process for truck drivers and supervisors to determine safe payloads and descent speeds based on the guidelines and current road and equipment conditions.

SEE STEEP SLOPE, PAGE 4



## Road map to independent employers' SAFE certification

The Council is finalizing requirements to be met in the independent employer category of SAFE Companies, the program launched last November to certify safety activities of B.C. forestry companies.

That category is for the smallest forestry operations, those with up to two peak-season workers. By the end of May, 447 of

them had registered to become SAFE-certified. (Large company and small company registrations stood at 232 and 871, respectively. A total of 70 operations had earned certifications, as this went to press.)

This spring, the Council’s sector technical committee finalized definitions for two sub-categories of inde-

pendent employers that recognize their differing responsibilities for safety.

One sub-category consists of individual owner/operators working for themselves and responsible for no one else on work sites.

The other sub-category consists of true independent employers, the one- or two-person companies that hire or contract other

on-site forestry workers. (Examples include log-brokers and woodlot operators hiring or contracting work by others, tenure holders with owner-licensee responsibilities and owners of trucks or equipment hiring drivers or operators.)

Each sub-category of independent employers will follow a somewhat

SEE HOW INDEPENDENT EMPLOYERS, PAGE 3

## A new Council member

Fifteen is the new magic number. That's how many organizations are Council members committed to forestry workplace safety and the principle that "unsafe is unacceptable."

Joining the Council this spring was the BC Community Forestry Association (BCCFA), with 45 members across the province. It sees the new relationship as enhancing "our ability to support the safety of people and small businesses

engaged in the activities in our area based tenures."

The association named one of its elected directors, Kevin Davie of Sechelt, to represent BCCFA at the Council.

Meanwhile, Rick Publi-cover joins the Council's Board, replacing Roy Nagel, the outgoing executive director of the Central Interior Logging Association.



KEVIN DAVIE OF SEHELDT, ELECTED TO REPRESENT BCCFA AT THE COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS ARE:

- BC Community Forestry Association
- BC Timber Sales
- Central Interior Logging Association
- Coast Forest Products Association
- Council of Forest Industries
- Federation of BC Woodlot Associations
- Interior Logging Association
- Interior Lumber Manufacturers' Association
- Ministry of Forests and Range of British Columbia
- North West Loggers Association
- Truck Loggers Association
- United Steelworkers-IWA Council
- Western Fallers' Association
- Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association
- WorkSafeBC

## WorkSafeBC's 2007 plan

In a spring presentation to the Council's Board of Directors, WorkSafeBC managers described their 2007 high-risk forestry compliance plan – its ultimate goal to continue reducing unacceptably high levels of serious injuries and fatalities still occurring in the sector.

Key strategies include:

- Following up outstanding orders written last year and ensuring that employers' safety management systems are in place and functioning.
- Developing a "Responsibility/Accountability Matrix" for all users of resource roads, and addressing the safety of loads, trucks, drivers and road design, construction, maintenance and use.
- Implementing a logging truck inspection standards program.
- Meeting with major forest licensees to follow up the 2006 integrated compliance strategy.

Meanwhile, inspections focus on:

- Young worker orientation, training and supervision.
- Musculoskeletal injuries, particularly in silviculture.
- Ensuring that all parties in the workplace meet their health and safety responsibilities.
- Emphasizing areas like failing to control the fall of trees, working too close, poor planning, inadequate or no supervision and trucking issues that include coordination, communication, speeding, loading, road use and maintenance.

WorkSafeBC's *Compliance Officer Field Guide* outlines how inspections are handled. To locate and download the guide, go to [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com) and enter the title into the search engine at the upper right of the home page.

## Reports on safety efforts

Two reports issued this spring offer good looks at efforts to improve safety in B.C.'s forestry sector. Both can be downloaded from, [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org).

*Progress Report 2006-07* outlines Council work last year and aims for this year.

Click on "About the Council" tab, and scroll down to "reports and publications" at the bottom of the page.

*Impartial, confidential fair and timely* is the first annual report of the Forest Safety Ombudsman. It can be found by clicking on the ombudsman's tab.

## How independent employers get SAFE-certified

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different route to earn certification:

- Individual owner/operators will attend one day of Council training and then track and submit their safety activities in a water-resistant, durable Council SAFEty log book.
- Independent employers hiring or contracting other on-site workers

will attend the Council's two-day Small Employer's Occupational Health Safety Training and then successfully complete a self-administered small employer safety audit. Essentially, they will complete requirements for the small employer category, but not pay its higher registration fee.

Those needing to follow the small companies route will be notified by the Council

this summer, and individual owner/operators will need to wait a little longer according to SAFE Companies Program Director Krista Bax.

But no matter when they registered, she said, all independent employers can count on 180 days to complete their certification requirements.

The Council plans to start regional training for the individual owner/operators

as soon as possible after completing pilot courses this summer. At the same time, it will introduce the log book, which will contain a user-friendly framework for conducting and documenting safety activities.

As developments for both sub-categories occur, information will be posted on the SAFE Companies page of the Council web site at [www.bcforestsafesafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org).

## Injury-fatality trends in B.C.

Council staff prepare serious injury and fatality reports for Board of Directors meetings, and what follows summarizes the report prepared at the end of May.

Reports of eight fatalities and 27 serious injuries were received for the first five months of the year.

Overall trends include:

- A continuing rise in the number of incidents involving machines and equipment not being properly locked out.
- An increase in the number of incidents among new or young workers.

More information can be found at the "Safety Statistics" link on the Council web site, [www.bcforestsafesafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org).

## What's ahead for forestry safety in B.C.

*As Forest Safety News went to press, these developments in B.C. forestry were expected over the summer. The Council web site will carry details as they become available.*

**The B.C. Auditor General** is expected to report on the state and progress of forest worker safety based on a review launched in January and involving the Council and others in the sector.

**WorkSafeBC continues** developing new forestry

regulations this summer with public hearings on the proposals. The Council commented on them this spring and continues to monitor the process. Details on it can be found at [worksafebc.com](http://worksafebc.com); click on "Regulation & Policy" and then "Public involvement."

**Resource road safety** will be examined in a months-long, sector-wide review announced in late May by BC Forestry Ombudsman Roger Harris. Funded by

the Council, Harris works independently on major reviews and individual safety inquiries.

**Training aboriginal** forest technicians gets more emphasis at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology with new government funding of a 12-month certificate program targeting aboriginal students. Since 2002, the province has reached agreements giving 127 First Nations access to 22.4 million cubic metres.

## Together, we'll deliver on the promise

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Convince anyone who hasn't registered to do so. Urge registrants to take the any necessary Council training. Encourage all of them to complete and send us their safety audits.

If you have concerns or questions, we want to hear them. If you need help, our safety advocates can give it to you, across the province.

SAFE Companies promises long overdue improve-

ments in how we view and practice forest safety. Much is left to do, and together, we'll deliver on the promise.



TANNER ELTON, CEO

## Council 'bull dozer' is ILA's newest member of the year

The Interior Logging Association's newest "member of the year" is a non-member, the Council's Forestry TruckSafe Director MaryAnne Arcand.

"She's made a tremendous difference," said ILA General Manager Wayne Lintott. "MaryAnne's brought log haulers closer to contractors and licensees, and opened up the lines of communication."

Known affectionately as "the bulldozer" for her relentless drive for safety, Arcand was shocked to receive the award

because "I'm not the only one doing things," she says. "The entire Council is just as determined as I am to make a difference, and everyone is working their tails off."

Arcand has criss-crossed the province for the Council – speaking to packed halls and small groups of a half dozen, meeting on safety with a total of more than 6,000 forest workers and their families and putting nearly 100,000 kilometres on her truck's odometre.



MARYANNE ARCAND RECEIVES THE INTERIOR LOGGING ASSOCIATION'S MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM ILA GENERAL MANAGER WAYNE LINTOTT.

## Ending our radio daze

Forestry TruckSafe will take the lead communicating with road users in all resource sectors for two pilot projects reducing the current high number of resource road radio frequencies.

Starting this summer, the projects – on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, and in the Tumbler Ridge area – begin a long-

term effort by Industry Canada to designate about 35 radio channels for all resource roads in B.C.

A working group for province-wide implementation, which could involve thousands of users, is the B.C. Ministry of Forests, BC Timber Sales, Forestry TruckSafe and Industry Canada.

As it becomes available, more information will appear on the Council web site.

## Steep slope

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To see the SOP, go to the Forestry TruckSafe page on the Council's website at [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org).

The procedure was developed by a broad-based working group formed and coordinated by Arcand – engineers, road builders, truck drivers and representatives of the B.C. Ministry of Forests, B.C. Timber Sales, FERIC and WorkSafeBC.

Another group is working to develop a similar steep slope SOP for highway trucks. The target completion date for that project is spring 2008.

### Forest Safety News

is published quarterly by the BC Forest Safety Council to inform members and others about workplace health-and-safety developments affecting our province's forest industry.



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## Spotlight on Safety

What happens when you're heading for the bush empty and experience a sudden loss of steering?

For one Vancouver Island log hauler this spring, the truck left the road, rolled 1½ times over a 250-foot drop and was stopped by a tree with stakes in the

ground – all that prevented another 150 feet fall into a river.

Shaken up and bruised, the driver knows he survived because of his seat belt. Being thrown or trying to jump from the truck would have meant serious injury or death.