

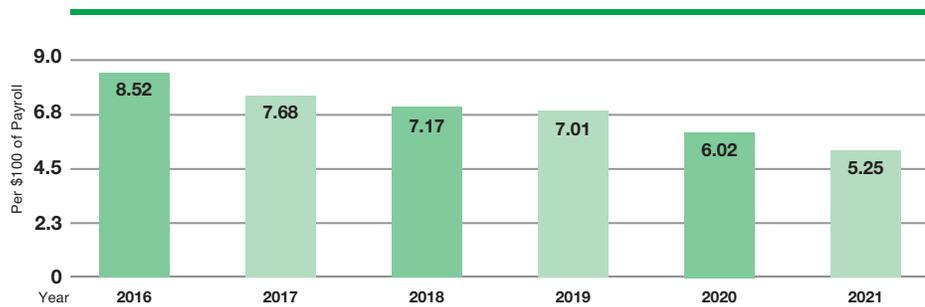


Preliminary WorkSafeBC Insurance Rates for 2021

For the majority of forestry classification units (CU's), preliminary insurance rates provided some welcomed and positive news for industry.

At the provincial level, WorkSafeBC is projecting the average rate will remain flat at 1.55%. 46% of employers will see a decrease, 43% will see an increase, and 11% will see little or no change to their rates.

WSBC Average Base Rates for Harvesting



Forestry	Final 2020 base rate	Preliminary 2021 base rate	Percent change in final base rate	Total number of firms
703002 Brushing and Weeding or Tree Thinning or Spacing	5.35	4.50	-16%	163
703003 Cable or Hi-Lead Logging	5.97	5.12	-14%	47
703004 Dry Land Sort	6.63	5.65	-15%	40
703005 Forest Fire Fighting	5.19	5.62	8%	38
703006 Ground Skidding, Horse Logging, or Log Loading	6.06	5.30	-13%	196
703008 Integrated Forest Management	6.48	5.51	-15%	1,025
703009 Log Booming or Marine Log Salvage	6.05	4.97	-18%	52
703011 Log Processing	6.21	5.31	-14%	221
703012 Logging Road Construction or Maintenance	6.28	5.28	-16%	288
703013 Manual Tree Falling and Bucking	5.94	4.91	-17%	877
703014 Mechanized Tree Falling	6.09	5.14	-16%	189
703015 Shake Block Cutting	6.15	5.01	-19%	33
703016 Tree Planting or Cone Picking	3.60	3.31	-8%	112
703019 Helicopter Logging	6.13	5.04	-18%	19
732044 Log Hauling	8.15	8.20	1%	1,247

Continued on page 2...

Welcome to the Winter edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at editor@bcforestsafesafe.org or call 1-877-741-1060.

What's Inside:

- 1 - 5 Industry News
- 6 - 7 Work-Related Deaths & Injuries
- 8 - 10 SAFE Companies
- 11 - 16 Training
- 17 - 19 Transportation Safety
- 20 Falling
- 21 - 22 Health & Wellness
- 23 Kid's Corner
- 24 - 25 Article Web Links



BC Forest Safety

Extending you our very best for a **safe** and happy holiday season.

BCFSC Holiday Office Hours

- Thursday, Dec 24 8am – 5pm
- Friday, Dec 25 CLOSED
- Monday, Dec 28 CLOSED
- Tuesday Dec 29 8am – 5pm
- Wednesday, Dec 30 8am – 5pm
- Thursday, Dec 31 8am – 5pm
- Friday, Jan 1 CLOSED
- Monday, Jan 4 Regular hours resume



Continued from page 6...

In forestry, the majority of classification units are projected to see an average 15% decrease with two classification units seeing increases of 1% and 8% (see following table for CU details).

WorkSafeBC expects its Board will approve the rates at the end of October, at which time they'll notify you of your final rate by mail.

Since 2014, the harvesting and sawmill sectors saw average WSBC premium rate decreases of 39% and 33% respectively based on 2021 preliminary insurance rates. That translates into more than \$39.7 million in premiums avoided for harvesting and \$13.1 million for sawmills based on 2019 assessable payroll levels - money that forestry companies and

contractors have been able to reinvest into their businesses.

This reduction in insurance rates reflects industry's collective commitment and continuing efforts to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries in the forest sector and reinforces that "Safety is **good** business". 🌲

What's New

COVID 19 Update - On November 19th, the Provincial Health Officer announced new province-wide restrictions. Click here for more information.

Take a look at the latest list of what we have to offer since September 2020. Below you will find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more for you to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. We've also posted this information on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) so make sure to follow us on social media and stay up-to-date with the latest news.

SIFp Campaign – SIFp incidents are near-miss events with a high risk of **Serious Injury or Fatality Potential**. Reporting these incidents allows the operation to fully investigate the causes and develop controls to avoid these incidents in the future. BCFSC has developed a SIFp campaign with a variety of resources available. Our resources will provide an overview of the importance of reporting SIFp events within your organization and tools to help you implement a reporting process.

Healthy Worker Series – BCFSC has completed our Healthy Worker Series for 2020. Get our free posters, crew talk sheets and backgrounders offering information on 10 health-related topics to help encourage workers to maximize their health at work and at home.

Preventing Phase Congestion

– BCFSC has built a dedicated webpage featuring information, free downloadable resources and online training to help employers, supervisors, contractors and workers better understand how to safely integrate simultaneous forestry activity phases and prevent phase congestion.

Training Calendar – Our 2021 Training Calendar offers both in-classroom (with COVID-19 safety protocols in place) and online courses. Start planning your training for next year today.

Safety Alerts – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **Fatality Alert** - October 3, 2020. A worker was fatally injured when their vehicle went off a resource road near Houston, BC
- BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month - **See Something, Say Something: Why this Advice Doesn't Always Work and How to Change That**
- Industry Alert - **Faller Struck by Overhead Hazard**
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – click on the link to see the latest alert

To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)

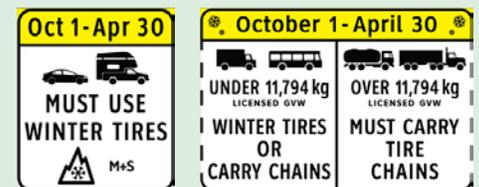
Industry Links

WorkSafeBC Announcements

– check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more.

WorkSafeBC Enews – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.

Shift Into Winter – resources & winter driving tips on how to stay safe on the road this winter.



Road Safety at Work – resources, workshops and consulting services to help BC employers and workers build and improve their occupational road safety programs.

Mental Health First Aid Training – MHFA training will help prepare participants to provide appropriate support for mental health support until professional help is administered or the crisis is resolved.

SAFER – Safety Advisory Foundation for Education and Research funds investigations, studies and the development of research and educational materials to assist workers and employers in the BC Forest industry. 🌲

BCFSC Resources to Help Industry Implement SIFp Reporting and Management

Earlier this year we told you about some leading work the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) were doing to get ahead of the next safety crisis. Through their collaborative efforts, MAG identified a need to create a shift in incident reporting within industry from a focus on events that only result in injuries to concentrating more on near-miss events with potential to cause a life-altering injury or fatality, otherwise known as a Significant Incident Failure Potential (SIFp).

The BCFSC has recently developed a variety of resources to support MAG member companies to adopt and implement SIFp reporting programs within their respective organizations.

Check out the [SIFp resources on the BCFSC website](#).

Part of the campaign includes a short [SIFp video](#) developed for employers to use at their worksites to help explain SIFp events and communicate the importance of reporting, investigating and sharing lessons from these near-miss incidents.

In addition, BCFSC also created SIFp event crew talks which will be distributed weekly to crew talk email subscribers and through social media. We identified a need to assist supervisors in explaining SIFp events to their crews and developed a SIFp Supervisor Crew Talk with tips on how to deliver an effective way of explaining why SIFp events are so important and how to initiate discussions on SIFp topics. [Sign up](#) for the weekly Crew Talks on our website.

There is also a poster and hardhat stickers to help raise awareness at the worksite. The poster can be downloaded from the SIFp webpage and stickers can be ordered free of charge by emailing info@bcforestsafesafe.org.

Over the past few months, some MAG members began implementing SIFp incident reporting and investigations into their safety processes. We were lucky to have them share how they implemented SIFp reporting and the benefits of having SIFp reporting as part of their safety management systems.



On October 20, 2020, Troy Withey (West Fraser) hosted a SIFp webinar providing participants with insight into West Fraser Timber's process of instituting SIFp reporting into their company. He provided an overview on the reporting, change management, education, forms, flowcharts and overall benefits that were gained throughout his organization. View the [recorded webinar](#) on our YouTube channel.

Our next SIFp webinar - **SIFP, So Now What? Refining SIFp Principles into a High-Risk Activities Program** - is scheduled for December 16, 2020 from 11:00am - Noon (PST) and will be hosted by Marla Nicol and Kristen Stinson from Conifex. [To register click here.](#)

The BCFSC would like to extend our thanks to MAG for bringing the importance of SIFp reporting into the forefront to help keep workers safe. This precautionary safety focus benefits not only manufacturing but everyone in BC's forestry industry and we encourage all forestry employers and employees to adopt this reporting practice into their day-to-day operations. 🚗

Plan Ahead for Safe Driving in Winter Conditions

In many parts of BC, drivers are experiencing winter conditions including snow and ice on the roads. With the forecast of La Niña, a climate phenomenon that results in abnormally cooler temperatures, BC is set to experience a cold and wet winter. The Winter Driving Safety Alliance is urging motorists, workers and employers to prepare for winter driving conditions with its annual [Shift into Winter](#) campaign.

All BC drivers and employers with workers who drive for business purposes need to prepare for the winter months ahead. From rain and fog, to snow and ice, winter driving conditions can be dangerous. Even the most experienced drivers are challenged by cold temperatures, slippery roads, and reduced visibility.

In BC, the average number of road accidents where someone is killed or injured due to *driving too fast for the conditions* more than doubles from fall to early winter. On average, the number

increases from 99 in September to 220 in December with a further 28% of all work-related road accidents occurring in November, December and January resulting in injury and time-loss claims.

The [Shift into Winter](#) website provides information on how best to prepare for winter driving as well as information for employers around planning, implementing and monitoring a winter driving safety program. Employers and supervisors can access an [online course](#) and use resources provided in the [employer toolkit](#) which includes a sample winter driving safety [policy](#), recommended [procedures](#) and customizable templates. There is also an online [quiz](#) to test a drivers' and employers' knowledge.

The Alliance encourages drivers and employers to adopt these tips to stay safe on the road this winter:

- Plan ahead and check current road and weather conditions on [DriveBC.ca](#).
- Install a set of four matched winter tires with the 3 peaked mountain/snowflake symbol.
- Give your vehicle a pre-season maintenance check-up.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.

- Slow down—the posted speed limit is the maximum speed under ideal driving conditions. Reduce your speed below the speed limit and drive with extra care.
- Maintain a safe following distance—look ahead and keep at least four seconds of distance between you and the vehicle in front.
- Invest in winter driving training—learn how to brake safely, get out of a skid, and become familiar with how your vehicle handles in winter weather. [Register](#) and attend a free webinar to learn about practical BC driving tips.

Employers have a legal responsibility to ensure the health and safety of their employees who drive for work, regardless of whether they drive a company-owned or personal vehicle. [ShiftIntoWinter.ca](#) provides information and resources that can help reduce the risks employees face when driving during winter. 🚗



Mental Health First Aid Training During the Pandemic

The Safety Advisory Foundation for Education and Research (SAFER) Council was created through collective bargaining in 1988 between the IWA (now United Steelworkers) and forest industry employers for the coast and southern interior of BC. It is jointly managed by these groups with a mandate to fund investigations, studies and to develop research and educational materials designed to identify both immediate and potential health and safety hazards or conditions in the BC forest industry.

One of the most recent initiatives SAFER embarked upon was addressing mental health in the forest industry. People spend a great deal of time at work and the negative implications of financial and human costs related to workplace mental health issues can be huge. Mental health issues have broad reaching affects that ultimately impact your physical health and personal well-being as well as those around you.

We know that isolation and loneliness are common consequences of mental health conditions and can be intensified by imposed quarantines due to COVID-19. Research shows mental health illnesses are one of the leading causes of disability. At least 1 in 5 Canadians will experience mental health issues in their lifetime and most will not seek help for these very treatable illnesses because they lack information and are afraid of stigma.

To help address this, SAFER worked with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) conducting Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) workshops in both Kelowna and Nanaimo. The MHFA program aims to improve mental health literacy and provide the skills and knowledge to help people better manage potential or developing mental health problems in themselves, a family member, friend or colleague.

Using larger venues, SAFER was able to ensure social distancing was in place and face masks were used when appropriate. Over 40 union and management workers from the forest industry attended the two-day workshops.

Grace Cox, Human Resource Manager at Canadian Forest Products, commented on the MHSA workshops. *“Excellent course to help give a person the skills and knowledge to offer first aid intervention and find the appropriate resources that a person in crisis might need.”*

Jeff Roos, President at Interior Forest Labour Relations Association stated: *“The Mental Health First Aid Workshop was very enlightening and helpful to begin to understand how to assist those struggling with mental health related illness, just as we strive to assist those with physical related illnesses. I highly recommend this course to others as a way to deepen our ability to help others and create an open environment to assist people as early as possible in getting the help they require, to be fully healthy and present.”*



Pat McGregor, President of USW Local 1-423 in Kelowna summed up the workshops by saying: *“On behalf of SAFER, I want to thank the CMHA and the participants for making the two day workshop successful and we look forward to sponsoring more of these events. By having a combination of HR, managers, supervisors and hourly workers, we were able to get a broader perspective of the day-to-day challenges that people who struggle with mental health issues have to endure.”*

SAFER has partnered with various industry organizations and education providers to develop valuable resources for the forest industry. Some of the most recent initiatives from SAFER include:

- A video developed with FP Innovations that discusses access/egress on heavy equipment
- Workplace wellness programs
- Logging truck cab guards research with the University of Oregon
- Orientation packages for new sawmill and logging workers
- Mental health and wellness information focussing on mindfulness for forestry workers
- A video interview with Wolfgang Zimmermann, the President of the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences
- Visual literacy workshops
- Workplace violence workshops, a continuation of the work the Redshirt Foundation initiated

To learn more about SAFER's Mental Health projects or any of SAFER's safety initiatives, visit the [SAFER website](#). 

Progressive Khowutzun Forest Services Moves to a Paperless Management System

Khowutzun Forest Services (KFS), owned by Cowichan Tribes, is a BCFSC SAFE Certified forestry company located in the Cowichan Valley. It employs over 60 full-time forestry professionals and offers a diverse range of forestry services from silviculture, wildfire control and most recently, harvesting. As their business model continues to develop, the long-range vision for the organization is to ensure projects are manageable both internally and externally.

General Manager, Cedar Elliott, recognized that in order to successfully introduce new revenue streams, such as harvesting and log hauling, KFS needed to move to a more progressive style of operations management and introduced a streamlined approach to help improve project management effectiveness and efficiency by going paperless.

“Each contracted project we take-on requires careful project planning to meet the demands. By using our new paperless system, we eliminate the need for thousands of pieces of paper that need to be filled out, filed and managed for each type of project.” says Cedar.

Through careful consideration, KFS chose the cloud-based document management and central repository platform, SiteDocs Safety Management, which helps manage key project essentials such as ERP’s, SWP’s maps, scheduling, safety forms, reports, equipment inventory, vehicle management, crew certifications and more. All project-based worksite documents and office-based

administrative paperwork are simultaneously managed online allowing a simplified system of document control.

Each worker assigned to a project has access to the required project-specific documents through their mobile devices, tablets or computers accessible from the mobile app or a web browser. All team members, from management to the site crew, can track the project planning and progression to ensure they have met requirements such as signing documents, certification requirements, accessing updated SWP’s, etc. The system can even flag details that have gone unnoticed or have not been uploaded such as compliance documents, unfilled checklists or forms. Workers can even fill out information while they are offline prompting the system to automatically send it when they are back in cell/wi-fi range.

John Carter, KFS’s Safety Coordinator Consultant, helped roll-out this new system company-wide. He cited the numerous benefits of adopting this paperless system that were not just limited to cost-savings from reducing paper waste and lowering printing costs but also:

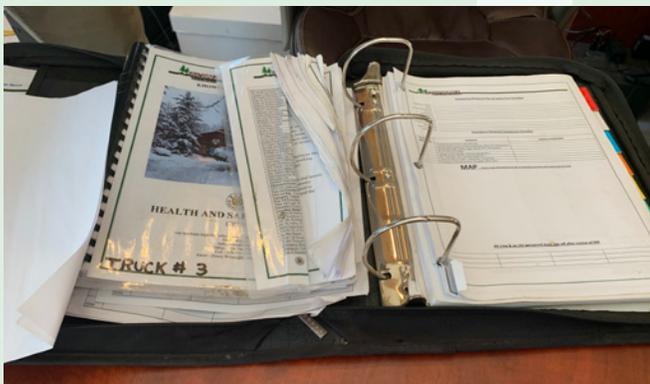
- It reduces the need for physical space for cluttered document storage and provides operations with real-time document management with improved accuracy. It reduces the risk to document damage and increases document safekeeping and data security.
- It improves time-management for project managers, operations and supervisors to ensure all required documents are completed without having to sort through multiple binders for several ongoing projects that are full of hundreds of pieces of paper.
- It allows the site supervisors to manage paperwork using one digital device letting them share knowledge and circulate information more easily so they can focus on the work at the site and less on filling in physical paperwork from a cumbersome project binder.
- It provides better reporting and auditing tools for external communications to contracted employers giving the employer peace of mind that their needs are being met.
- It provides a streamlined safety protocol process to maintain crew safety on the worksite and inform the crew of real-time incident reports and improved safety procedures to help reduce injury risks.

“We care about our employees and this new system allows us to show our care and concern by managing projects more effectively, ensuring our crews are fully prepped for the worksite and that everyone on site is properly certified” Carter explains. *“We are able to update information and immediately send it out to specific team members or to all of them to make sure they are informed in real-time with the most accurate information.”*

To learn more about how KFS has implemented their new paperless system, contact them at 250-746-4555. 📞



Desks piled with paper will be a thing of the past.



Bulky project binders will be replaced with online documents.