



Photo credit: BC Wildfire Service

Preparing BC Forestry Workers for Wildfires

Last year's wildfire season in BC was the most destructive on record, with 2.8 million hectares burned—more than double any previous year. The fires caused significant disruption to the work and lives of many people in BC, and the impact was felt strongly by those in the forest industry. Evacuations and alerts, oppressive smoke, high heat, area closures, and lack of access to industry critical resources, including helicopters, were among the many challenges faced by the industry.

The influence of El Niño contributed to the warm and dry climate throughout 2023, and this pattern has continued into the spring of 2024. Coupled with below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures expected over the coming months, the prolonged drought conditions are once again setting the stage for a challenging 2024 fire season across the province.

Climate change and disruptive weather patterns like El Niño continue to complicate the situation in the forest industry. Many forestry companies are challenged in the work that they do as

fire seasons begin earlier and become more intense. The forestry industry is forced to adjust its operations, prioritizing fire readiness and resilience. Additionally, workers are regularly confronted with unique and sometimes rapidly changing hazards.

The forestry sector is vital to BC's economy, and its workforce is the backbone of the industry. It's crucial for forestry workers to understand wildfire risks and management to ensure their safety and the safety of forestry operations. Equipping forestry workers with the necessary skills they need to prepare themselves for the prevention, and/or mitigation wildfires is essential. Being trained to understand risks and mitigation strategies will help contribute to the growth and diversification of the forest industry workforce but will also help with restoring our forests and mitigate climate change impacts.

To help forestry workers recognize and wildfire risks, and reduce the risk of health hazards, BCFSC suggests the following resources and training opportunities:

Welcome to the Spring 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@bcforestsafe.org or call 1-877-741-1060.

What's Inside:

- 1 - 9 Harvesting Safety
- 10 Work-Related Deaths & Injuries
- 11 SAFE Companies
- 12 - 15 Falling
- 16 - 17 Transportation Safety
- 18 - 19 Manufacturing Safety
- 20 - 22 Training
- 23 - 24 Health & Wellness
- 25 Kid's Corner

Resources:

- [Wildfire Preparedness Guide \(PreparedBC\)](#)
- [Dangerous Tree Resources](#)

Free Training:

- [Introduction to Dangerous Trees](#)
- [Forest Supervisor Training](#)
- [Serious Incident and Fatality Investigation](#)

Webinar Recordings:

- [Mitigation Strategies for Wildfire Smoke and Other Respiratory Hazards in Wildland Firefighting \(May 1, 2024\)](#)
- [Tips to Successfully Transition into Supervision \(November 30, 2022\)](#)

Crew Talks:

- [Wildfire Safety While at Work](#)
- [Emergency Response in the Workplace](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation Grab & Go Bags](#) 📄



What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since March 2024. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Load Securement Contractor

Toolboxes – the Contractor toolboxes are sets of tools and resources that employers and log haul drivers can use to address the risk of injury from load securement activities. There are four Load Securement Toolbox Videos demonstrating various methods to throw wrappers to help reduce shoulder and MSI injuries and two downloadable PDF documents available.

[Toolbox A: Improved Throwing Method C \(Video\)](#)

[Toolbox B: Underhand Throw Using Lead Rope \(Video\)](#)

[Toolbox C: Throw Assist Using a Pole \(Video\)](#)

[Toolbox D: Rotator Saver \(PDF\)](#)

[Toolbox E: Lightweight Wrappers/Tie-downs \(PDF\)](#)

[Toolbox F: Elevated Platform \(Video\)](#)

BC Wildfire Service's Mitigation Strategies for Wildfire Smoke and Other Respiratory Hazards in Wildland Firefighting

– Watch the webinar recording from May 1st featuring Drew Lichty, an Occupational Hygienist at Canada Wildfire, and Steve Lemon, Superintendent of Safety & Wellbeing at BC Wildfire Service discussing the challenges posed by wildfire smoke exposure in the context of wildland firefighting

Upcoming Industry Conferences

2024 Vancouver Island Safety Conference

Bridging Generations in Today's Safety Culture

Oct 26, 2024 – Nanaimo, BC

BCFSC's Different Voices Webinar – for those who missed the webinar in person, the webinar recording is now available. The webinar features Mike Tasker and Rodney Scollard from WorkSafeBC discussing the proposed combustible dust regulations.

BCFSC FIRS (Forest Industry Reporting System) App – the full version of the BCFSC FIRS App is now available to download from your App store. Use the FIRS App manage forms and documents for safety-related paperwork related to SAFE Companies Audit submissions.

Training Calendar – Plan ahead and secure your spot for our fall 2024 training courses. The BCFSC Training Calendar is now fully loaded and offers both in-classroom and online courses. We also provide requested training bringing courses directly to your preferred location at a convenient time that works for you.

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.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** – Preparing for Wildfire Season
- **Industry Alert** – Worker Fatigue and Journey Management
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – Click on the link to see the latest weekly alert

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

Industry News

Get the latest on industry news from:

WorkSafeBC Enews – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation

and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.

WorkSafe Magazine – WorkSafeBC publishes WorkSafe Magazine six times a year to inform, inspire and provide practical tips on a range of topical occupational health and safety matters. It's free to [subscribe](#) and available online.

Tree Frog Forestry News – daily news with top stories and full news stories on the forest sector in North America and around the world.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) – FESBC shares news and information about BC forestry.

Truck Loggers Association (TLA) – a monthly newsletter and 1/4ly magazine (Truck Logger BC) offering stories from BC provincial forestry perspectives, information and updates.

Interior Logging Association – the ILA insider is a 1/4ly newsletter featuring timber harvesting news, information and updates throughout BC.

Western Forestry Contractors' Association – The Cache is an online space to share wisdom, experience, information, tools and resources generated by the silviculture community.

Wood Pellets Association of Canada (WPAC) News – read the latest news from WPAC and subscribe to receive the WPAC newsletter.

Industry Links

Road Safety at Work – visit Road Safety at Work for resources, webinars, workshops and news relating to road safety for you and your employees.

Register for RSW's free webinar Putting the Brakes on Aggressive Driving! Wednesday, June 19, 2024 | 10:00am to 11:00am. [Register today.](#)

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

How Workplaces Can Prepare for Wildfire Season

If you live and work in BC, it is important to plan and be prepared for wildfires threatening communities, services, and forests, and be ready to evacuate without much notice. Wildfires can spread quickly so you likely will not have much time to get ready if an evacuation is ordered.

Being prepared will not only improve a workplace's response in the event of an emergency, but also will aid in the recovery after a fire.

Your local municipalities and regional districts have a lot of excellent information on how to prepare for the risks of a wildfire and the protocols in place if there is a wildfire in or near the community. So, check their websites for information.

In addition to any local guidelines, also consider the following points.

Before A Wildfire:

- Prepare an evacuation plan as part of your Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to help avoid confusion and prevent injuries. A thorough evacuation plan should include:
 - Conditions that will activate the plan
 - Chain of command
 - Emergency functions and who will perform them
 - Specific evacuation procedures, including alternative routes, exits, muster points and check-in procedures.
 - Procedures for accounting for on-site personnel, visitors, etc.
 - Required equipment and emergency supply kits
 - Review the plan with workers
- Practice your ERP and ensure all workers know what to do in case of an emergency. Conduct evacuation drills regularly and update plans and procedures based on lessons learned from exercises.
- In addition to your worksite, develop a plan for your home as well. Create a grab-and-go bag and make sure that your family knows what to do even if separated (someone is at work, for example). Have a plan for your pets and livestock.
- Where possible, make a safety zone around your business, worksite, or residence. Remove combustible materials and reduce the volume of vegetation to a minimum around buildings. This will reduce the spread of wildfire and may protect the buildings and equipment within.
- Consider FireSmartBC recommendations for homes and businesses. Frequently mowing grass and replacing vegetation with less flammable species can provide better protection against spreading wildfires.
- For indoor work or homes, consider investing in HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters and maintain filters

as instructed by the manufacturer. For outdoor work, implement a respiratory protection program—which may include masks—for workers working in smoky conditions.

During wildfire season:

- Even if not under an evacuation order, workers may be exposed to both smoke and extreme heat during their regular work. Follow a heat stress prevention program which considers the added stress due to reduced air quality. When it is not possible for workers to spend time in cooler and cleaner air, provide access to cool water and encourage them to drink regularly.
- Prevent human caused wildfires. Understand and follow the current fire restrictions, maintain your equipment, and have sufficient fire suppression equipment ready if something happens.
- Maintain high levels of situational awareness when there are fires in the area. Be aware of fire conditions, including the current fire danger rating and the location of any active forest fires in the region. Monitor your immediate area for changes in weather, including changes in smoke. Keep connected with public notices and communicate regularly with your workers.
- Employers should check in regularly with workers about their mental and physical health. Wildfire and smoke events can be mentally and emotionally challenging. Feeling anxious, stressed, sad, or isolated is not uncommon, but eating well, getting enough sleep, exercising indoors, and staying in contact with friends can help. Remind workers of the supports offered by the organization, like an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and encourage anyone having trouble coping with stress, anxiety, or depression to seek help. Remember to check in with workers and other people who are in your care or live nearby who may be more vulnerable to poor air quality.

If there is a need to evacuate:

- There are often two stages of an evacuation notice – an evacuation alert and an evacuation order.
- While the specifics of each may change depending on the jurisdiction you are in, generally, if you are under an evacuation alert, you should be ready to leave on short notice. This is the time where you can double check your evacuation plan, stock up on anything additional that you need, and take care of any livestock that you have.
- Once an evacuation order has been given, you must leave immediately with everything that you need. In most cases you will not be allowed to return to pick up anything you forgot, including pets or other animals.

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3...

- The evacuation order should include details about check-in points outside of the community, places to stay (such as community centres in neighbouring municipalities), and where to meet for alternate transportation and times for those who cannot leave on their own.
- If you are susceptible to the health effects of wildfire smoke and smoke levels in your community are high, evaluate if it is possible to temporarily re-locate to an area with cleaner air. You may also choose to leave your community before an evacuation order is issued.

- Continue to listen to news updates for information about the fire throughout the evacuation. Only return home when the authorities say it is safe to do so.

Resources:

[WorkSafeBC Workplace Evacuation Planning](#)

[BC Government – Wildfire Preparedness](#)

[Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations – Emergency Evacuation Regulations](#)

[WorkSafeBC Emergency Preparedness](#) 

Forestry Employers Need to Get Ready for New First Aid Requirements

Submitted by WorkSafeBC

We are quickly approaching the date when, on November 1st, 2024, changes to First Aid requirements will come into effect. The amendments were approved by WorkSafeBC’s Board of Directors in April 2023 and the 18-month time-lag in implementation was designed to allow employers and training providers to prepare for the changes. These amendments will apply to all workplaces and industries, but some of the key changes are especially relevant in the forestry sector because of the focus on remote and less-accessible work locations. The requirements for first aid are outlined in Part 3 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. They have seen very few updates over the last 20 years, which has prompted the current overhaul.

Of particular concern was the provision of appropriate emergency transport for injured workers in remote areas. In addition to strengthening the current obligations, the changes will harmonize first aid training and first aid kit requirements with the national standards under CSA (Canadian Standards Association). Harmonizing with the CSA standards is intended to help with labour mobility, allowing qualified workers coming to BC from other provinces to use their first aid certifications obtained elsewhere.

Under the amended regulation, a workplace that is further than 30 minutes travel time by an ambulance under normal travel conditions, will be classified as a “remote workplace”. A workplace that cannot be reached by an ambulance travelling by land, or a workplace where EHS ambulance attendants cannot safely access, will be classified as a “less-accessible” workplace. There are many factors that will make a workplace less-accessible and include things like rough or steep terrain, or places where an injured worker would be carried for a significant distance. Clearly, a cutblock where a stretcher would need to be carried through logging slash would be less-accessible. Along these lines, many forestry operations will be deemed both “remote” and “less-accessible.” In the language of the new regulation, those would be Class 4 workplaces. This is significant because workplace classification will determine how many first aid attendants are required at a particular operation; and what level of certification they must have. The minimum requirements, based on industry hazard rating and workplace class, are outlined in Schedule 3-A of the Regulation (excerpt from Schedule 3-A shown here for illustration purposes).

Another key piece for identifying the appropriate minimum levels of first aid is the hazard rating assigned to industry and its classification units (CUs). Most forestry CUs, such as Logging Road Construction, Manual Tree Falling, or Cable Yarding, etc. fall under the High Hazard Rating, based on the nature and extent of the risks and hazards involved. The assigned Hazard Rating can be found in the Assessment Rate Notification that WorkSafeBC sends to all employers every year in November. All three factors: the hazard rating, the class of workplace (reflecting whether it is remote and how accessible), and the number of workers present will determine the minimum first aid services that can be looked up in Schedule 3-A.

**Table 3-4
Minimum Requirements – Class 4 Workplaces**

Item	Column 1 Workers present	Column 2 Low hazard rating	Column 3 Moderate hazard rating	Column 4 High hazard rating
1	2 – 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid kit • Basic first aid attendant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid kit • Basic first aid attendant (transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate first aid kit • Intermediate first aid attendant (transport)
2	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid kit • Basic first aid attendant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid kit • Basic first aid attendant (transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate first aid kit • Intermediate first aid attendant (transport) • Emergency transportation for one injured worker
3	10 – 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic first aid kit • Basic first aid attendant (transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate first aid kit • Intermediate first aid attendant (transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced first aid kit • Basic first aid attendant (transport) • Advanced first aid attendant

It is important to note that Schedule 3-A lists only the “minimum levels” of First Aid and it is only meant to be a starting point for employers assessing what they will actually need to have in place depending on the hazards and conditions specific to their operation. In some cases, based on the risk assessment, these minimum levels from the Schedule may be adequate, but in other situations, additional first aid attendants and higher levels of certification may be required to properly respond to a first aid emergency. A requirement to conduct a formal risk assessment has existed before, but starting in November, this assessment will need to be written down and available for inspection. The written assessment must document both the minimum first aid services as per Schedule 3-A and any additional equipment, supplies, first aid attendants, and other services that are necessary to ensure that injured workers can have prompt access to first aid and prompt transport to medical treatment. To assist and guide employers through the assessment process, a First Aid Assessment Tool will be available in a pdf format in June and a digital version will be posted on WorkSafeBC’s website in September.

Another point worth noting is that under the new requirements, the written first aid assessment must be prepared, reviewed, and updated in consultation with the joint committee, where one is required, or the worker health and safety representative. But even in small workplaces that do not have a joint committee or a designated worker representative, workers should still be involved in the assessment process and their input can be obtained at the monthly safety meetings, tailgate crew talks, or pre-job meetings.

The assessment will need to consider the number of workers present, their location, the types of risks and hazards that they may be exposed to, and the types of injuries likely to occur. Additionally, any potential barriers to first aid being provided will need to be identified, along with solutions. The assessment must be reviewed and updated every year and whenever there’s a significant change in the operations affecting the validity of the assessment.

Also under the new provisions, the employer will be required to conduct practical drills for first aid emergencies at least once each year and whenever the procedures change, such as when entering a different logging phase, moving to a significantly different operating area, and requiring a different type of response. Further, the employer will need to ensure that these drills validate the effectiveness of first aid procedures and that the first aid attendants and other workers, who might be called upon to assist, are capable of fulfilling their roles. A first aid drill should include realistic mock scenarios that can identify any gaps in skills, capability, response times, and any shortcomings in equipment. Gaps or deficiencies identified through a drill will need to result in changes and improvements to procedures. Above all, these drills will help the participants better understand their responsibilities in an emergency and better prepare them for the real thing.

As mentioned before, the amended regulation will harmonize first aid training and first aid kit requirements with the CSA standards, which raises questions about how a transition to the new system will happen. Currently, first aid attendants are trained and certified as OFA Level 1, 2, or 3. This will be replaced by training in Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced level certification. Of note is that the existing five-day Level 2 training course will be replaced by a two-day Intermediate course under the CSA system. This change in course duration and content was taken into consideration in the design of the revised Schedule 3-A. There will be corresponding changes to the first aid kit requirements.

To alleviate pressure and uncertainty, WorkSafeBC is implementing a number of transition measures:

- The certification of first aid attendants who hold valid OFA Level 1, 2, and 3 certificates will continue to be recognized until the date of their expiry (up to November 1, 2027) and those certificates will be accepted as equivalent to Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced certification under the new system.
- Valid OFA Level 1, 2, and 3 certificates that expire between July 2 and October 31, 2024, will be accepted as valid until November 1, 2024.
- Employers wishing to utilize first aid attendants holding the new Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced certificates prior to November 1, 2024 will be able to do so, if all other requirements of the amended first aid regulation are also implemented, including all required elements of the newly revised Schedule 3-A, a written first aid risk assessment, and written first aid procedures;
- Employers may continue to use existing first aid kit contents, recognizing that they are mostly the same as the new CSA-aligned kit contents – they will only have to supplement existing kits with any items that are “net new” under the amended guidelines; there is no expectation for employers to dispose of existing first aid supplies that are essentially the same (other than, let’s say small changes in dimensions of bandages, etc.). Employers will be expected to replace first aid supplies and kits with CSA-aligned supplies as supplies are replenished or when purchasing new kits.

While the changes coming into effect on November 1st are extensive, they are expected to result in better outcomes for injured workers and more certainty for employers knowing that their first aid provisions and emergency protocols are suitable for the business operations.

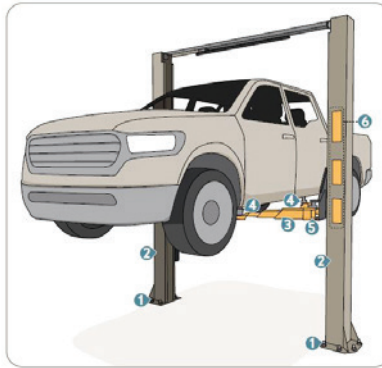
While this article captures key elements of the changing regulation, a very comprehensive guideline to the new requirements will be posted on WorkSafeBC’s website towards the end of May. Employers, first aid attendants, and all workers who will be affected by these amendments, are encouraged to review the guideline to help prepare for the upcoming changes. 🌱

WorkSafeBC Updates

WorkSafeBC Managing the Risks of Two-post Automotive Lifts

WorkSafeBC has released a bulletin explaining how to manage the risks of two-post automotive lifts, which can fail during use, and workers can be seriously injured by falling vehicles.

There are many causes of two-post automotive lift failures. The WorkSafeBC Bulletin on [managing the risks of two-post automotive lifts](#) outlines some of these causes and explains key ways to manage risk to keep workers safe. Learn more about managing risk by visiting [WorkSafeBC's dedicated webpage](#). 🚧



A vehicle on a two-post automotive lift. Key parts include:

1 Anchor bolts	5 Lifting points (on vehicle)
2 Support posts	6 Swing-arm restraint
3 Swing arm	Warning labels

Board of Directors Decision - Time Limits for Filing a Mental Disorder Claim

On February 6, 2024, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amendments to policy on time limits for [filing a mental disorder claim](#). The amendments apply to all decisions, including appellate decisions, made on or after May 1, 2024. 🚧

Enhancing Health & Safety Culture and Performance

WorkSafeBC has created resources specific to enhancing a workplace's health and safety culture and the proactive management of health and safety. Health and safety are intrinsically linked to performance and by building a strong health and safety culture, you will have a positive impact on your workers, your bottom line and public perception.

Learn more by [visiting the webpage](#). 🚧

WorkSafeBC Magazine Spring 2024

[WorkSafeBC's Spring Issue](#) feature articles:

- Staying connected after an injury: Gilda's remarkable journey
- Safety training fills a gap in wood pellet industry
- Changes coming to workplace first aid requirements
- Controlling the risk of welding fume exposures
- Protecting your workers from the risk of fatigue 🚧

Introducing WorkSafeBC's Engagement Hub

WorkSafeBC has launched an Engagement Hub to learn about WorkSafeBC initiatives, projects, and proposals and share feedback on them. Visit the [Engagement Hub](#) to learn about what's happening and how to get involved. The hub will be regularly updated as engagements progress and new ones are launched. 🚧

WorkSafeBC Consultations

Current Consultations

[Public consultation on the Permanent Disability Evaluation Schedule — Range of Motion Method and Disabilities of the Spine](#)

Consultation Deadline: June 7, 2024

[Proposed amendments to policy on average earnings in Chapter 9 of the Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual](#)

Consultation Deadline: June 28, 2024



20 Years of Forestry Safety

By Dazy Weymer

I started out in the logging industry in the late 1960s. The Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers (IWA) was a strong union by then and workers were treated respectfully, however there was very little structure and few standards for the training of new workers or for logging supervision in those days. Some of the more experienced loggers naturally assumed responsibility for looking out for the new guys on the crew. Others maybe not so much. Often enough new workers were left to learn from their own mistakes which is a real poor strategy in a dangerous occupation. I was fortunate in having a few good mentors which made me one of the lucky ones.

Companies also varied in how much concern they had for their crews well-being. Safety, at that point, had at least become something crews could safely talk about without the risk of getting fired, but there was still a culture in which the guys who were considered to be the top-notch loggers were the guys who ran the fastest and got the most timber on the ground, or the most wood to the water. "Safety first as long as it doesn't get in the way of production" was a commonly quoted sentiment. That and, "it's a dangerous business. People are going to get hurt." And unfortunately it was an attitude that often did get people hurt or killed.

There were slow improvements over the next 30 plus years, in part through pressure from WCB, which was slowly making hurting people more and more expensive, but more so I think because of changing social values. Public sentiment towards the logging industry was gradually changing. By the early 2000's, the news media was getting involved and the pressure on government and WCB to do something about it was building. The industry

was told, enough of the tough guys in a tough industry BS. Quit hurting and killing people or we're going to shut you down.

A group of industry and worker organizations were pulled together to figure something out and a result of that in 2004, was the formation of the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC).

The pace of change in the forest industry safety culture began to speed up and that pace of change was thrown into overdrive by the horrendous year we had in 2005 when 43 industry workers lost their lives.

A big focus for the newly formed BCFSC, and one I've been involved in, was to develop standardized work practices along with a certification system for hand fallers, and standardized training for new fallers. Prior to that time, faller training had been largely left to the discretion of employers and, by that point, while some employers were doing a very good job training new fallers, the faller training standards across the industry were still all over the map.

Good quality supervision has come to the forefront in safety. While the focus has been heavily directed at faller supervision with training, support, and certification, the BCFSC has also developed training by way of courses and videos for all forestry phases. Work has been done and continues to be done on emergency response training and videos.

Culture change can be a tough uphill push and a long slow process. For a lot of my logging career, safety and productivity were seen as contradictory objectives. How much do you give'er shit to get things done and how much should you slow down and be safe?

The working culture the industry is shifting to, is the model of steady productivity without interruptions. The new approach is to take the time to do things the right way every time and avoid having those screw-ups that interfere with productivity. Those screw-ups for a faller can range from getting your saw stuck and losing productivity while you go get another saw to cut yours out, to serious accidents which, while being hugely traumatic to everyone involved, are also massively expensive. With this approach, safety does not conflict with productivity. Working safely is the simply the best business model. There is getting to be a solid belief amongst loggers that we should be able to log without hurting and killing people and there is a lot of effort put into achieving that goal. A good part of that shift in culture can be credited to a collaboration between the BCFSC staff and the advisory groups who work with them.

Because culture change comes slowly it can be frustratingly hard to see. It can help to think back 5, 10, or 20 years and see how far we have come since then. Together we have moved the dial on safety significantly in the last 20 years, and the BCFSC has played a big role in that movement, in part because of our involvement. Obviously, there is still lots to be done. You can help. The purpose of the BCFSC is to help the forest industry work successfully and profitably, without hurting people. The BCFSC can keep on helping us improve things in the future, but it's up to us loggers to work with and support the council. Drop in and see them. Give them a call or shoot them an email. Or better yet, get involved with one of the advisory groups. 📞

Spotlight on Safety: Nominate a Champion of Safety from your Organization

In the forest sector, safety leaders are the unsung heroes that help get us all home safe, every day. Safety leaders guide us through the complexities of workplace safety with unwavering dedication and innovation. The Leadership in Safety Awards helps shine a light on these individuals and gives them the recognition they truly deserve.

BCFSC is calling for nominations for the esteemed Leadership in Safety Award to honour those who have made outstanding contributions to safety in our industry.

The award winners will be honored in person at the upcoming Vancouver Island Safety Conference on Saturday, October 26th in Nanaimo, BC.

Don't miss this opportunity to nominate a deserving candidate who has exemplified outstanding safety leadership or accomplishments in one of three categories: harvesting, manufacturing, and a lifetime achievement in forestry.

Award Categories

1. Cary White Memorial Award

This special award is presented to someone who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving safety awareness, expanding safety knowledge, developing safety skills at ground level and building a lasting culture of safety among BC's forestry workers. It is someone who goes the extra mile to help others reach their safety goals with a helping hand, proven experience and knowledge.

2. Forest Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a notable contribution to forest industry safety within their operation or company.

The MVP could be a worker whose idea resulted in improvements to workplace safety, a supervisor who communicated regularly with their crew spearheading safe work procedures, a crew that found a way to work more safely and productively, a manager who demonstrated commitment to worker safety, a committee that achieved safety improvements through persistent efforts to seek changes, or a company that has demonstrated leadership in integrating health & safety into their business practices.

3. Manufacturing Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a notable contribution to wood products manufacturing safety within their operation or company.

The MVP could be a worker whose idea resulted in improvements to workplace safety, a supervisor who communicated regularly with their crew spearheading safe work procedures, a crew that found a way to work more safely and productively, a manager who demonstrated commitment to worker safety, a committee that achieved safety improvements through persistent efforts to seek changes, or a company that has demonstrated leadership in integrating health & safety into their business practices.

Let's celebrate those who make our workplaces safer. Nominate your safety leader today and let their exemplary efforts be recognized and applauded by their peers across the industry.

To nominate, simply send an email to info@bcforestsafesafe.org with the following details:

- Nominee's full name
- Nominee's job title
- Nominee's workplace and employer
- Chosen nomination category (Cary White Award or MVP)
- A comprehensive explanation of your nomination reasons (the more details, the better)
- Your contact information (name and email address)

Nomination Deadline:

September 24, 2024

Honoring Past Safety Leaders

Take a moment to read about the previous winners of the Leadership in Safety Awards. These trailblazers have set the bar high with their remarkable safety achievements. Their stories inspire us and remind us that dedicated safety leadership can help us meet our objective ... to get every forestry worker home safe – every day. 🙌

2024 Interior Safety Conference – Safety at Work: Inside and Out

The Interior Safety Conference (ISC) is an annual event that brings together professionals from the BC forest sector to discuss safety-related issues and explore ways to improve safety practices in the industry. This year's conference took place on May 9th at the Coast Kamloops Conference Centre, and was a great success.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's ISC. We were thrilled to see such a large turnout, your participation made this event a huge success.

The ISC is held in partnership with the Interior Logging Association (ILA) Conference, and we would like to thank the ILA for their support. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our industry sponsors, WorkSafeBC, BCFSC, Canfor, Interfor, Weyerhaeuser, West Fraser, Gorman, and Tolko. Thanks to their generous support, we were able to offer the event free of charge to all attendees.

This year's theme, "Safety at Work: Inside and Out" focused on empowering individuals to take ownership of safety for themselves and in the workplace. We were fortunate to have an excellent lineup of keynote speakers:

Justin Brien, mental health advocate: Justin openly shared his struggles with substance use and mental health struggles encouraging the audience to let go of the stigma around mental health.

Steve Donahue, a bestselling author and motivational speaker: Steve gave us a gripping tale of his odyssey across the Sahara Desert. He gave his personal insights on how to succeed through constantly shifting situations with story-based tools that battle disruption, inspire transformation and drive engagement.

Leanne Pozzobon was our special guest speaker: Leanne shared her personal story about the loss of her son Ty who took his own life after suffering multiple concussions in the rodeo arena as a professional bull rider. Leanne educated us on "The Invisible Injury", how to recognize the signs and symptoms and understand the underlying mental health challenges that shadow these injuries.

In addition, we were pleased to have presentations from Will Dirksen from WorkSafeBC who gave a presentation on the upcoming First Aid changes coming into effect November 1, 2024. BCFSC's Transportation and Northern Safety Manager, Dorian Dereshkevich shared the work he has been working on with TAG on Emergency Response Planning. Elise and Teresa Cheung from WorkSafeBC also gave a presentation on the Return-to-Work amendments to Bill 41. All three of these presentations are available to download and share with your crew.

- [WorkSafeBC First Aid Presentation](#)
- [Return to Work - Bill 41 Overview](#)
- [BCFSC ERP Presentation](#)

Looking ahead, we invite those located on or near the coast, to mark their calendars for the 2024 Vancouver Island Safety Conference, which takes place on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, BC. We hope to see you there.

Once again, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who made the ISC 2024 possible. Your dedication to safety in the forestry industry is truly inspiring, and we look forward to continuing this important conversation in the years to come. 🌲



Save the Date

Vancouver Island Safety Conference *Bridging Generations in Today's Safety Culture*

Saturday, October 26, 2024 at the Vancouver Island
Conference Centre in Nanaimo, BC.

Registration and conference details available soon.