



## BCFSC Improves Both Faller Safety and Airport Safety

Regional airports in BC play a crucial role in connecting communities, supporting local economies and facilitating emergency services. Ensuring the safety and efficiency of their air operations is essential, and one critical aspect is maintaining clear sightlines and airspace surrounding the runway. Pilots rely on clear sightlines during take-off and landing, and airport staff need unobstructed views to safely manage aircraft movements and monitor runways.

For some airports, encroaching development is the challenge but in the case of the City of Campbell River Airport (YBL), it's all about maintaining and improving safety by reducing *encroaching forest growth*. Building heights can be planned to ensure they stay below the regulatory threshold set by Transport Canada, but when a forest surrounds the airport, trees must be managed to ensure they don't grow too tall.

When it was learned that YBL needed select tree and brush removal adjacent to the runway areas, a connection was made between City Airport Manager Dennis Brodie and BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) course trainer John Jacobsen. A plan emerged that saw the Falling Supervisor course being hosted at the Campbell River Airport, and it has proven to be a win-win for safety.

BCFSC requires standing timber in a forested setting during two field days of training, where various manual tree-falling-related activities are demonstrated. In his role as an experienced tree faller and trainer, John worked with Dennis to develop a falling safety plan that allowed course participants to spend the field days

in areas in need of improved sightlines for approaching aircraft outside the fences at the airport.

The City of Campbell River receives tree falling and bucking services provided at no charge, alongside a small amount of merchantable timber, and the BCFSC receives a field site to train in. The result proved so successful that BCFSC returned for another two sessions of falling supervisor training at YBL, the most recent taking place in April 2024.

Kermit Dahl, Campbell River Mayor, said "Campbell River has a deep connection with the coastal forest industry, and this partnership with BCFSC supports that work while also furthering the City's commitment to fiscal responsibility."

For BCFSC, the convenience of the location is a key benefit. But it isn't the only one. Most of the time, manual tree fallers are found working in active logging areas but because of the unique setting of the airport property, trainers and participants alike were able to experience a more unique workplace setting that broadened their safety knowledge and experience.

"At YBL, where the coast connects, we're focused on providing safe, quick and convenient connections between the Strathcona and Discovery Islands region of Northern Vancouver Island and the rest of the world. This partnership gives forestry workers in



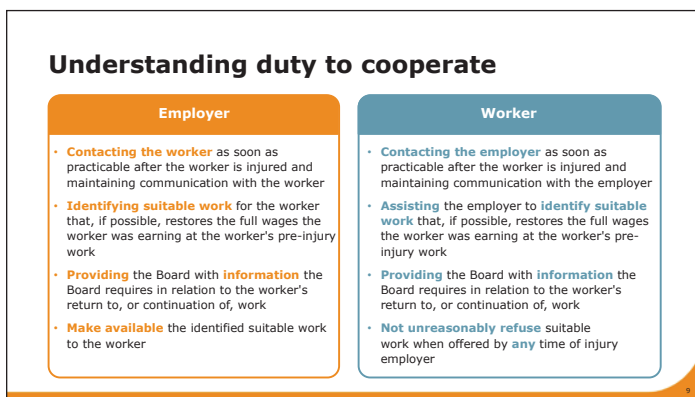
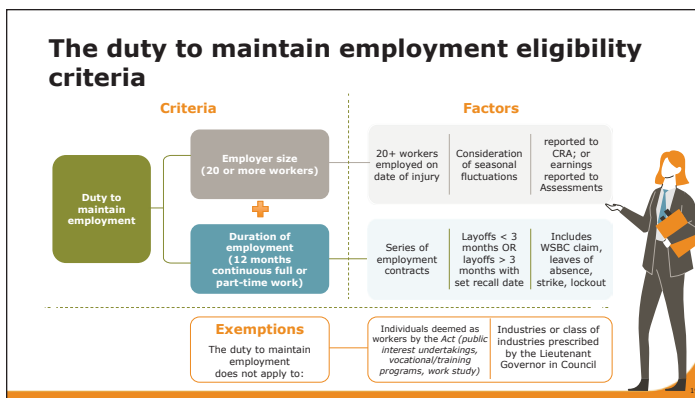
the field the safety training they need, while simultaneously advancing aircraft safety," said Airport Manager Dennis Brodie.

"It's been a great experience working with Dennis and his staff as they have been very supportive of our training," added trainer John Jacobsen. "The site offered so close to town has been beneficial in allowing less time travelling and more time for the participants to practice their skills in faller supervision."

BCFSC thanks the City of Campbell River and the Campbell River Airport for their support of our training programs and looks forward to partnering with them again in the future. 🌲

# Bill 41 and Forestry Workplaces

Are you aware that Bill-41: Workers Compensation Act, came into effect in January 2024? Bill-41 establishes legal duties for employers to maintain employment opportunities for injured workers, and for employers and workers to cooperate in the process of returning to and continuing work after injuries. WorkSafeBC has various resources outlining the changes including a [downloadable webinar presentation](#) that should help explain the employer, worker and WorkSafeBC requirements.



BCFSC asked Jordan Tesluk, Forestry Safety Advocate for the BC SAFE Forestry Program, and SAFE Companies External Auditor to explore what this means for forestry workplaces.

Jordan indicated the amendments apply to all industries, but forestry workplaces have some common challenges that may require additional adjustments for some employers.

He also highlighted the following should be taken into consideration based on his research:

- WorkSafeBC has explained that workers who are invited or expected to be rehired on an annual or seasonal rotation such as tree planters and wildland fire fighters will be considered continuously employed, which means the employer has a duty to maintain employment.
- Seasonal operators who maintain a minimal crew or employers limited to administrative activities throughout much of the year, will be expected to maintain employment for injured workers if they employ 20 or more workers through their main periods of productive activity.
- Penalties against employers that do not fulfill their duty can include payment of wages and potential administrative penalties.
- Workers are obligated to accept suitable and productive work that is within their functional abilities, to maintain contact with their employer, and to provide WorkSafeBC with information as required.
- New administrative processes, documents and policies may be required to support the new duties.

For further information or questions on Bill-41, contact WorkSafeBC:

If you have any questions or concerns about a worker's return-to-work, or a return-to-work plan lasts longer than anticipated or if the worker isn't making progress toward their pre-injury level of duties, contact WorkSafeBC's [Claims Call Centre](#).

For general questions related to return-to-work planning, consultation, and support, please call the [Return to Work Consultation and Education Services Support Line](#).

For more information on how the changes apply to forestry workplaces, and how to prepare at your workplace, contact us at [thompson@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:thompson@bcforestsafesafe.org) to request a Bulletin with all of Jordan's Bill-41 research. 📄

# BCFSC Safety Alerts

## Keep Industry Informed

BCFSC's [Safety Alerts](#) are a great resource for anyone wishing to stay informed and proactive about the forest industry and its safety standards. By reading and sharing safety alerts, you can contribute to the safety culture in your workplace.

Workers and companies are invited to voluntarily submit information about incidents, close calls, safety innovations and safety topics that can help improve safety for all workers. The alerts are brief overviews describing the incident or topic and what can be learned from the matter at hand. Safety alerts on workplace incidents do not include details that identify the source but instead focus on key learnings and recommendations.

The BCFSC Safety Alerts web page allows users to view, submit, and subscribe to any of the alert types that are available. Alerts can be filtered by type, company, location and date. The categories of alert types on BCFSC's web site include:

- **Monthly Safety Alerts:** Provide a monthly overview of a relevant and timely safety topic or issue and offers practical tips and guidance to improve safety.
- **MAG Safety Alerts:** These alerts are issued by the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG), a sub-committee of the BCFSC that represents the wood manufacturing sector and provides information and advice on safety issues and incidents that occurred in the sector.
- **Industry Alerts:** Submitted by workers and companies who want to share their safety experiences and learnings with industry. Industry-submitted alerts provide details and recommendations on how to prevent or mitigate similar incidents.
- **Fatality Alerts:** Notify the industry of a fatality that occurred in the forest sector and provides preliminary information and resources to support safety.

To access safety alerts, visit the [Safety Alert](#) web page. You can also [subscribe to our safety alerts](#) to receive them by email. To submit an alert topic or incident, you can visit our [alert submission page](#) to find instructions.

Also, be sure to follow BCFSC on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube for the latest news and updates on forest safety. 🌲

