



## Celebrating BCFSC's Long-standing SAFE Certified Companies

In April 2004, the provincial government's Forest Safety Task Force was established to address the alarming number of injuries and fatalities in the forestry sector. The task force identified two key outcomes: the adoption of a Health and Safety Accord for the BC Forestry Industry and the creation of the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC), a dedicated Health and Safety Association for BC's forest industry.

One of the initial tasks was to develop a mandatory safety program for all forestry employers. This program emphasized a commitment to health and safety for all workers, including direct employees, contractors, sub-contractors, and others providing services to owners, tenure holders, and licensees across the province.

It became clear that companies with a strong safety record should be prioritized for forestry work contracts and the Task Force recommended a pre-qualification safety management system to ensure a minimum safety standard for bidding on forestry work in BC. BCFSC was tasked with developing this safety system evaluation program.

BCFSC collaborated with industry representatives and key stakeholders to identify industry standards and markers of good safety practices. After two years of development, SAFE (Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise) Companies Certification was launched in 2006, and companies meeting the audit requirements were awarded SAFE Certification. By 2009, SAFE Certification became a pre-requisite for forestry companies ranging from Independent Owner Operators (IOOs) to large companies and even publicly held companies, to bid on contracts. Companies achieving SAFE Certification also became eligible for COR certification from WorkSafeBC.

As we celebrate 20 years of service to BC's forestry sector, BCFSC acknowledges the forestry companies that embraced SAFE Certification early on and remain SAFE Certified to this day:

- Balcaen Consolidated Contracting Ltd.
- B.R.I. Security and Consulting Services Ltd.
- Lo-Bar Log Transport Co. Ltd.
- Sibola Mountain Falling Ltd.

- Munson Equipment (1992) Ltd.
- JoR Contracting Ltd.
- Sitka Silviculture Ltd.
- Weyerhaeuser - Princeton Timberlands
- District of Mission (Forestry Operations)

We spoke with Bruce and Jayne Ingram from B.R.I. Security and Consulting Services, one of BCFSC's first 50 SAFE Certified IOOs, about their long-standing commitment to safety and why they became SAFE Certified.

Bruce and Jayne began BRI Security in 2004. Bruce explained, "We were contracted by TimberWest to provide security for their forestry sites. It was a requirement for any contractors working with them to have SAFE Certification. As a contracted security company, we weren't working as forestry workers per se, but we felt that meeting the regulatory safety protocols would help us understand the perils a forestry site could face."

The Ingrams agreed that the training courses and support from BCFSC staff were invaluable in understanding their role as contractors. Bruce continued, "The expertise we acquired through the training and audit process gave us the knowledge to assist TimberWest and other contractors on site with their safety protocol checklists to maintain compliance."

Jayne added, "As a security company, we had other regulations to adhere to as well, but we felt it was necessary to also meet the forestry site safety requirements. If forestry contractors must be SAFE Certified, then so do we."

As Jayne and Bruce prepare to retire after 20 years in business, they leave us with these parting words: "The SAFE Certification program is essential for your safety and everyone else's. We highly recommend it. Whenever you need help, BCFSC is there. Just pick up the phone and call. They will work with you, not against you, to ensure you have all the information you need to meet the requirements."

We wish Bruce and Jayne the best in their future endeavors.

If you would like to reach out to a SAFE Companies team member, call us at 1.877.741.1060 or email us at [safecompanies@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:safecompanies@bcforestsafesafe.org).

## Reminder: Year-end Audit Due Date is Changing to Nov 30th

BCFSC would like to remind companies whose audits have previously been submitted in December to adjust their timelines to submit their year-end audit by November 30th. This means that all audits normally submitted in December will now need to be completed (last day of data collection for BASE) by November 30th.

This updated year-end audit due date was adjusted last February in consultation with the SAFE Companies Advisory Committee and BCFSC Program Committee.

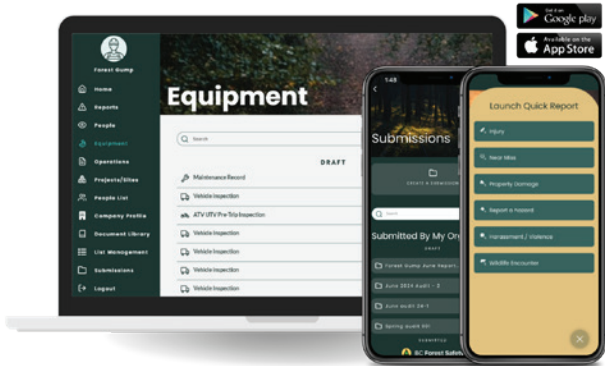
The new audit due date will benefit employers and BCFSC by:

1. Providing employers that normally submit an audit in December with additional time to achieve a successful audit result and be eligible for the COR incentive.
2. Reducing pressure on external auditors to complete audits in December.
3. Allowing BCFSC staff to schedule site visits earlier in the year which will benefit injury reduction with workers.
4. Alleviating the significant audit review surge in January and February providing BCFSC staff with an opportunity to focus on preparing the COR incentive forecast for WorkSafeBC.

2024 will be a transition year as employers and auditors adjust to accommodate the November 30th due date. New Certifications or vital Re-certifications to reacquire SAFE Certification in December will continue to be accepted. If you have questions, email SAFE Companies or for more information, visit the BCFSC website.

# Use the BCFSC FIRS App for Your Audit Submission

The BCFSC Forest Industry Reporting System (FIRS) is now fully operational and ready to assist with your SAFE Companies audit requirements.

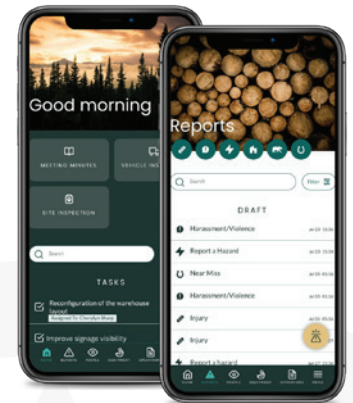


- **View Training Records and Certifications:** Scan the QR code located in the profile section of the FIRS app to see active, expiring soon, and expired training records and certifications.
- **Role-based Permissions for Enhanced Security:** Efficiently manage role-based tasks and information access with different levels of permissions.
- **Bundled PDF Printing:** Save and print your reports and records in PDF format.

## Additional Features

The BCFSC FIRS App also includes several additional features to enhance efficiency and organization:

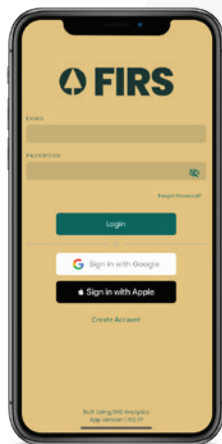
- **Automated Notifications:** System-generated alerts keep you updated when new reports and tasks are created.
- **Voice-to-Text:** Utilize talk-to-text functionality to reduce manual typing. Simply talk to document safety reports efficiently.
- **Offline Functionality:** Supports data entry even without an internet connection, automatically syncing your data once you reconnect.



This innovative forms management tool is specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of the forest industry. It is designed to streamline the paperwork and administrative tasks required for audit submissions and is FREE for all SAFE Certified Companies. The app is user-friendly, easy to set up, and available for download on both Android and iOS devices via the App Store. Additionally, FIRS offers a desktop dashboard that allows administrators to access uploaded submissions, generate reports, and create document bundles.

## Key Features of the BCFSC FIRS App

- **Simplified Record-Keeping:** Automates the storage of SAFE Companies forms, including incidents, site inspections, first aid assessments, worker orientations, and worker observations for workforce development.
- **Accessible Work Procedures:** Provides field access to company Safe Work Procedures, both online and offline via the in-app Document Library.
- **Effortless Reporting:** *FIRS enables quick report submission and photo documentation directly from the field.* Pick and choose records and reports from your FIRS app to send to clients, and other stakeholders.



## Getting Started with the BCFSC FIRS App

The BCFSC FIRS App is available for download on both Android and iOS devices through the App Store. Here's how to get started:

1. Search for 'BCFSC FIRS' and install the app.
2. To begin using the app, a FIRS account is required. For enhanced security, the BCFSC will verify your SAFE Certified Company status upon receiving your registration request at [FIRS@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:FIRS@bcforestsafesafe.org).
3. Once your registration is reviewed and approved by the BCFSC, your account will be set up, and you will receive an invitation email.
4. Follow the instructions provided to activate your FIRS account with your registration details.

For further questions or information about the BCFSC FIRS App, visit the [FIRS webpage](#) or email [FIRS@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:FIRS@bcforestsafesafe.org).