



Webinar on First Aid Regulatory Change Webinar

On October 10th, BC Forest Safety hosted a webinar on the first aid regulatory changes that came into effect on November 1st. The webinar was presented by Darcy Moshenko and Troy Lockhart from WorkSafeBC. Darcy is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) with over 30 years of experience in the forest industry in a variety of sectors including forest operations research, fibre procurement, resource roads and bridges and forest stewardship. Darcy is currently an Industry and Program Specialist at WorkSafeBC with a focus on forest industry health and safety. Troy is also an RPF who has worked in Northeast BC for 29 years and has a strong background in oil and gas and the forest industry. Troy is a prevention officer with WorkSafeBC.

Troy and Darcy's presentation covered the reasons for the first aid regulation changes, discussed how the changes would affect the forest industry, and provided useful advice for forestry companies to adapt to the change.

Key changes introduced in the November amendments are:

1. Introduction of workplace class which is defined by location and accessibility.
2. Written first aid assessment to be conducted in consultation with joint committees or worker representatives.
3. Changes to minimum levels of first aid and the addition of additional first aid requirements to account for worksite specific needs.
4. New requirements within written first aid procedure.
5. Annual first aid drills.
6. Changes to first aid equipment and credentials.

- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [Webinar Slides](#)
- [Webinar Q&A](#)
- [Quick Links to WorkSafeBC Resources for Regulatory Changes](#)

The [WorkSafeBC First Aid web page](#) is the best location for employers to find general resources to support them through these changes. There are videos, forms, explanations of the regulation, and instructions on how to conduct first aid assessments and procedures.

BCFSC has also developed a list of industry resources specific to the forest sector here. [Click here.](#) 📄



BCFSC Introduces Two Blaster Training Courses

Blasters in BC are required to maintain their knowledge and skills through specific training programs. Before obtaining blasting certification, blasters must complete 8 hours of formal blasting education. Once certified, they are required to undertake 6 hours of training annually to keep their skills sharp.

To assist forestry blasters in meeting these requirements, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is offering two free online training courses. These courses provide the flexibility to learn at your pace and convenience on a mobile device or computer, and can be completed in manageable chunks to suit your schedule. Participants will receive a digital record of completion to document their training progress.



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Course Offerings:

1. Blasting Hazards and Safety (1 hour)

- This course covers the fundamentals of identifying and controlling hazards, with a focus on specific risks such as:
 - **Flyrock:** Understanding common causes and mitigation strategies
 - **Overhead Hazards:** Addressing issues like high rock cuts and unstable debris
 - **Ground Hazards:** Identifying rock voids, misfired explosives, and unstable muck piles
 - **Environmental Hazards:** Managing risks from toxic vapors, lighting, high winds, and heavy rainfall

2. Legal Requirements for Forestry Blasting (2 hours)

- This newly introduced course outlines the federal and provincial agencies involved in forestry blasting in BC, along with the regulations they enforce. To make the material engaging, the course features a series of videos that follow two blasters through their workday, illustrating how they comply with legal requirements. Key topics include:
 - **Storage:** Best practices for magazines, security, and record-keeping



- **Transportation:** Guidelines for loading, placarding, and transporting explosives
- **Explosive Use:** Procedures for drilling, loading holes, securing sites, and firing
- **After the Blast:** Protocols for handling misfires and conducting post-blast inspections

For those interested in exploring additional training options that qualify for the 6 hours of continuing education, [visit WorkSafeBC](#) to see more suggested training options.

BCFSC will continue to expand blasting training opportunities in the future. Stay tuned to BCFSC's training webpages, social media and publications in 2025 for more updates on upcoming training sessions. 📢

No Increase to Course Fees for Third Consecutive Year

In support of the forest industry, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is maintaining its 2025 training course fees at 2022 levels. Fees have remained consistent for the third consecutive year and the purpose of this decision is to offer relief to industry members potentially grappling with rising costs.

We are maintaining the high quality of our training programs while not passing on additional costs to participants by continuing to pursue operational efficiencies and cutting

costs where appropriate. We are not cutting areas that we know are important to the success of these courses, such as high-quality instructors and excellent course materials.

By maintaining course fees at 2022 levels, the Council wants to ensure that essential safety training remains

accessible to all. As the industry navigates challenging economic times, our decision to prioritize affordability and quality ensures we are doing our part to support a safer, more resilient forestry sector.

For more information on available courses and to register, visit the [BCFSC course catalogue](#). 📢

