



## Underwater Egress Training

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) Falling Safety Advisors, Scott Rushton and David Adshead, frequently travel on floatplanes for work. The nature of their roles often takes them over remote areas where the only safe landing options during emergencies are lakes or other bodies of water. That's why they recently participated in underwater egress training provided by Pro Aviation Safety Training.

This training was eye-opening and an invaluable experience. It taught them the critical skills and muscle memory required to escape a submerged aircraft safely. The scenarios simulated high-stress conditions, such as disorientation and zero visibility, giving them the confidence to act decisively in a real emergency.

For anyone who travels by floatplane, whether for work or pleasure, we encourage you to consider taking underwater egress training. It's a life-saving skill that can make all the difference in a crisis. Being prepared means being ready to get out alive.

### Falling Safety Advisor Activities

BCFSC Falling Safety Advisors and contractors completed the following activities in 2024:

- 6 Falling Supervisor Certifications
- 15 Faller Certifications
- 14 Trainer Quality Assurance Visits
- 17 Trainer & Trainee Quality Assurance Visits
- 17 Company Reviews
- 225 Faller Visits

For more information on the services offered by the BCFSC falling department, you can reach us toll-free 1-877-741-1060. Check out the [Falling Safety Advocacy Program pamphlet](#) for more information on what services are available, free of charge.



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### TRAINING COURSES

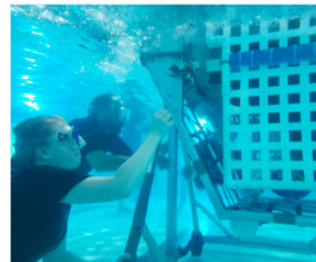
#### UNDERWATER EGRESS

This course is tailored to those in the aviation industry who regularly fly near or over water. We focus on skills for fixed wing and rotary wing craft with a focus on both pilot and passenger precautions



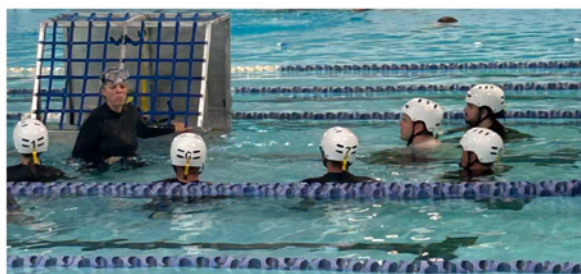
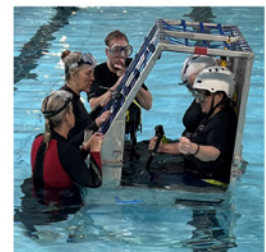
#### EUBA - EMERGENCY BREATHING

The EUBA add-on package provides participants with the knowledge, understanding and skill to safety deploy and use the EUBA to increase underwater time in an emergency situation



#### EQUIPMENT EGRESS

This course is tailored to those in the mining and heavy equipment industry who regularly work on or near bodies of water including tailing ponds, lakes, or ditches. We focus on prevention and preparation for equipment operators as accidents happen suddenly and unexpectedly



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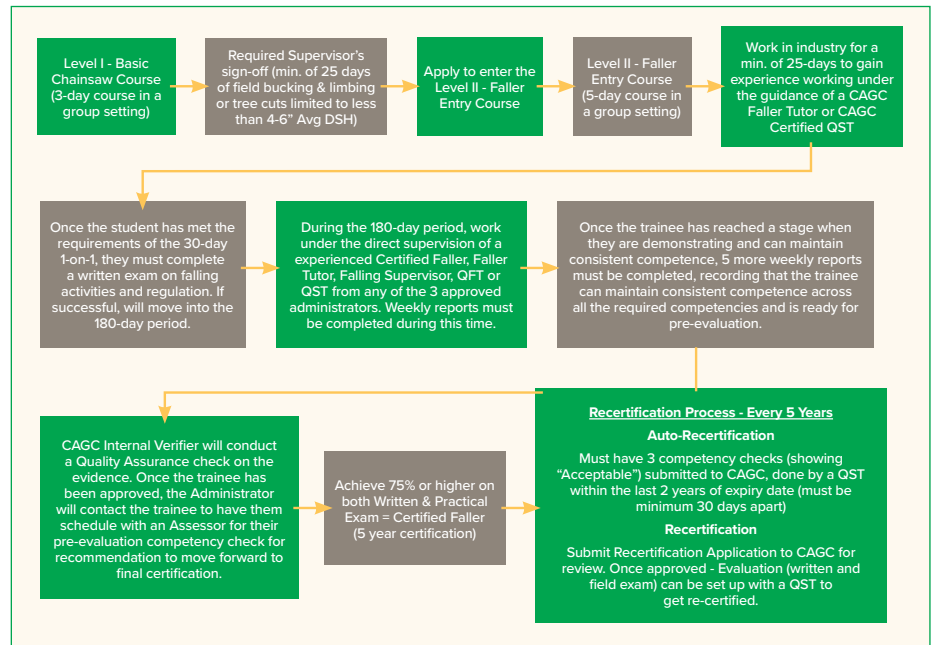
### Approved Administrators Processes

Over the past few years, the administrators of the BC Faller Training Standard, the BC Wildfire Service, the Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors and BCFSC, have been updating their faller training and certification programs. Each organization's Faller Program differs from the other, which can sometimes cause confusion throughout the industry.

Below are flow charts that detail the differences between each of the approved administrator's programs.

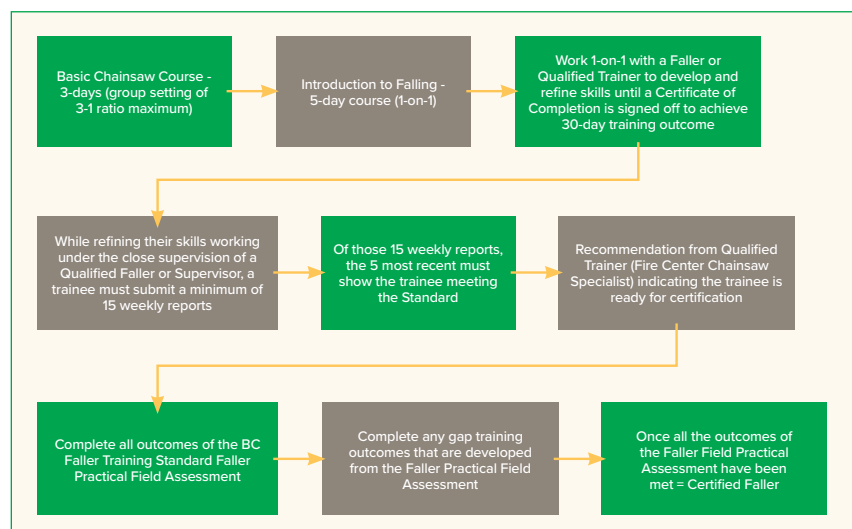
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## Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors



## BC Wildfire Service

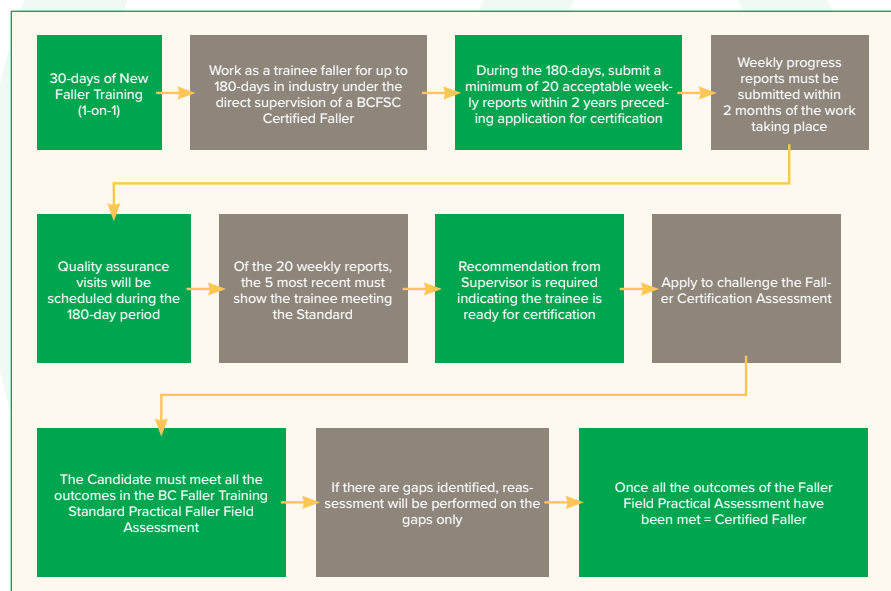
Note: You must be an employee of the BCWS to take their training.



## The BC Forest Safety Council

Note: Once an individual begins training in one stream, they are not permitted to jump to a different stream, mid-training to achieve certification. They may work in different industries; however, the work may not be eligible for their approved administrator's requirements.

If you have additional questions regarding the training and certification process, please contact the relevant administrator. 📞





# I Sure Hope Nobody Gets Hurt Today

By Scott Rushton

There is no question that the forest industry is a high hazard environment. With the work taking place in such a dynamic setting, putting controls in place for all of the hazards in order to mitigate the risk levels can be a significant challenge. A lot of responsibility is placed on falling supervisors to continually identify all of the reasonably foreseeable hazards at worksites.

One of the common and important responsibilities of a falling supervisor is to create and maintain a workable Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Due to evolving technology, it is becoming more and more common to have small falling crews spread out over large land areas. Examples would be two fallers working together on a right of way job or two fallers working together to finish small areas that were unable to be felled by a machine. Due to barriers such as worksite and worker locations, weather, and communication challenges, it can be very difficult to create and maintain a workable ERP. This can even be the case when there are many other workers readily available to assist in the event of an emergency. In some cases where there are only two fallers working, it can become almost impossible to create a workable ERP.

One of the bigger challenges of only two fallers working together in isolation can be creating a workable plan to move a seriously injured worker from the injury site to the designated emergency transportation site. For many years, supervisors and fallers have relied on helicopter support in their ERP's and, for the most part, have had the ability to utilize a support helicopter with a long line system to sling a seriously injured worker from the injury site to the road if needed. With the helicopter long line system now being strongly discouraged in industry as an acceptable practice as part of the ERP, it can be a real challenge to create a workable ERP in many falling situations. It is not always realistic to think it's possible to pack a seriously injured worker out on a stretcher. Challenging terrain and worker locations can make it all but impossible to create and maintain an emergency access trail that would support the ability to pack out an injured worker.

There are several industry groups that take this situation very seriously and are working hard to find a solution. For me, this topic needs to stay on the front burner and a solution cannot come fast enough! I'm really hoping that the safety organizations, landowners, companies, contractors, supervisors, and workers will continue to communicate openly and will collaboratively push forward to find a solution to this safety critical issue.

No worker should ever have to think "I sure hope nobody gets hurt today" because they are not 100% sure if the onsite ERP will work. 🙏

# FTAC's Journey: Achievements and Ongoing Efforts

By Doug Harrison & Dazy Weymer

The Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) has been steadfast in its mission to promote safety, collaboration, and innovation within the manual tree falling sector. Over the past few years, FTAC has made significant strides in improving workplace safety, enhancing training resources, and fostering a more inclusive industry.

Here's a look at what we've accomplished and what we're currently working on.

## Recent Achievements (2022–2025)

### *Commitment to Safe Work Procedures (SWPs) development*

- **2022-2023:** Played a key role in developing SWPs for Fence Posting and Heavy Leaner Bore Cuts – Approved by WSBC April 2024
- **2023-2025:** Established a dedicated sub-committee of 11 volunteers who worked through four meetings to create & advance an SWP for backbarring - waiting for approval by WSBC.

### *Collaboration with WorkSafeBC for Faller Safety*

- Examined the lack of hearing tests being done and made progress towards a levy-funded hearing test system for the forest industry.
- Engaged in meaningful discussions to clarify regulations, including updates to high-visibility clothing and the November 1, 2024, First Aid Regulation updates.
- Facilitated conversations on SWPs for steep slope falling and fall protection equipment.
- Shared innovative ideas to improve Emergency Response Planning (ERP), particularly for remote areas requiring helicopter extraction.

- Continued efforts to align the training programs of the 3 approved administrators with the current BC Faller Training Standard curriculum & competency-based certification assessment.

### *Diversity and Representation*

- **2023–2024:** Welcomed six new members, enhancing representation of First Nations and women within the falling community.

### *Support for Supervisors*

- Participated with the development of WorkSafeBC's "Supervision in Manual Falling" videos in 2022.
- Oversaw updates to the BCFSC Falling Supervisor Course in October 2023.
- Advanced projects like Supervisor InfoFlips and Tailgate Safety Talks to provide better resources for supervisors.

## Ongoing Initiatives

### *Mental Health and Wellness*

We've made recognition of mental health issues a priority by hosting targeted conversations and presentations, including:

- Guest speakers sharing personal experiences to inspire and educate.
- Discussions on resilience, human factors, and financial wellness.
- Highlights of initiatives from the BC Construction Association and Island Health.
- Ongoing dialogues to better address the mental health needs of both manual tree fallers and supervisors.

### *Additional Efforts -2024-2025*

- Added a First Nations Forestry (Interior) membership position

to complement the existing First Nations Forestry (Coast) representative.

- Maintained a focus on the Danger Tree Assessment Program to mitigate critical risks that have been identified.
- Advocated for stronger ERP strategies to ensure fallers' safety in the event of an injury.

## Looking Ahead

FTAC remains deeply committed to strengthening collaboration and communication around manual tree faller safety and wellness, so that they remain as key components of the manual tree falling profession. FTAC supports BC fallers with manual falling expertise from people who are currently working in the field, with caulk boots on the ground and saws in hand. The committee knows the implications of changes to regulations, SWP's and concerns of fallers because they do the work themselves.

FTAC provides a voice in these decisions to people who are going to be directly affected by them; the folks who are in the industry right now, falling timber and supervising fallers. The importance of FTAC can not be overstated. FTAC members are proud of what has been achieved in recent years and are excited about the continual improvement activities still to come.

Together, we are building a safer, more inclusive, and innovative future for everyone within the industry. FTAC is always looking for dedicated, passionate people with falling backgrounds to participate on the committee. Please contact the Falling Department at the BCFSC if you are interested in becoming an FTAC member. [faller@bcforestsafes.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafes.org) 🌲