



National Forest Week

Impact of Safer Practices in the Forests

Measuring Safety Performance in BC's Forest Industry

2005 to 2006 Safety Performance measured through the WorkSafeBC Claims and Assessment Process

Overall

There has been a significant improvement in the safety performance in the harvesting sector of the forest industry from 2005 to 2006.

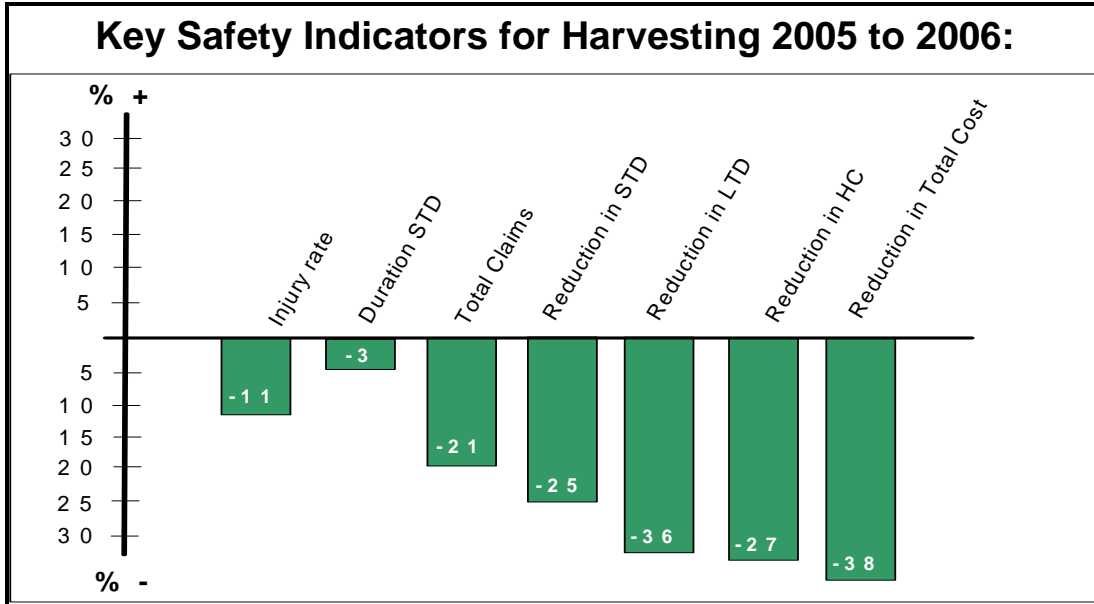
Safety Performance

- Decrease of 21.5% in total claims from 1,193 to 936
- Drop in length of short term disability by 3% from 73.5 to 71.5 days
- Decrease of 32% in Benefit Cost Rate (the total of all safety related costs per \$100 of payroll) from 4.74 to 3.21

Safety Impacts

- Reduction in overall number of injuries resulting in 39% decrease in costs from \$45,517 million to \$27,776 million (net reduction of \$17,741 million)
- Fewer short term disability injuries resulting in 25.5% reduction in costs
- Fewer long term disability injuries resulting in 36% reduction in costs
- Reduction in number of injuries requiring health care by 27.5%
- Reduction in number of injuries resulting in indirect costs; a savings of over \$53,000,000 (three times the total cost of direct injuries)¹
- Total reduction in injuries resulting in a safety dividend of more than \$70,000,000 (direct and indirect costs)

¹ The "Indirect Costs" calculation is three times "Direct Costs", the same as used in the Council Document, "*The Cost of UnSafe*". Estimates of "Indirect Costs" in capital intensive industries can be as high as eight times "Direct Costs".



Safety Actions – 2005 to 2006 to present

In addition to the countless company safety meetings, crew tailgate meetings, conferences, and individual efforts, the following major programs have been undertaken:

From Industry:

- 2,260 forest companies registered in the BC Forest Safety Council SAFE Certified Companies program and 149 forest companies successfully completed certification
- 1,200 small employer representatives trained in basic occupational health and safety as part of SAFE Companies
- 3,300 experienced fallers certified under the Council's Faller Certification Program
- 55 new fallers trained and certified by the Council
- 300 forest supervisors trained by the Council
- Province-wide outreach, education and road use management activities undertaken to reduce incidents and fatalities in the working woods and on BC roads

From WorkSafeBC:

- A major review of forestry compliance policies, as recommended by the BC Forest Safety Task Force
- More safety officers added
- A rigorous compliance pilot project on forestry safety drilling down safety systems

- Introduction of the Certificate of Recognition Program (COR, the WorkSafeBC portion of industry's SAFE Companies Certification program)
- Review of the Forestry Operations Regulation Part of the Occupational Health & Safety Regulation
- Transferring administration of the BC Faller Training Standard to the Council

From Government:

- The appointment of a Resource Industry Coroner to focus on fatalities in forestry and other resource industries. As a result there have been two Coroner's inquests into forestry related fatalities; the Gramlich Inquest into a faller fatality in 2006 and the Leroux Inquest into a Logging Truck fatality in 2007
- The commitment of BC Timber Sales to become SAFE Certified and to require that companies harvesting Timber Sales fibre obtain SAFE Certified status
- Referral to the Auditor General the issue of forest safety. Their report is expected later this fall

For more information, www.bcforestsafe.org or contact:

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