

SAFE Companies UPDATE



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1 April 2008

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KUDOS TO THESE SAFETY LEADERS!

Congratulations to the following companies that were SAFE certified March 15-28. Every company that becomes SAFE certified is leading the way for making work sites safer:

Ambrus Logging Ltd., Quesnel • Double D Logging Ltd., Prince George • Hayes Canyon Road Maintenance – 0738853 BC Ltd., Princeton • Lukwa Tree Care Enterprises, Heriot Bay • Way Out West Contracting Ltd., Quesnel • West Fraser Mills Ltd., Quesnel



YOUR TURN

YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT COR REBATES

Q: How are the 2007 WSBC COR rebates calculated, and when can I expect to see mine?

A: All eligible SAFE certified companies will receive a 5% annual rebate on their WSBC premiums. Rebates are calculated as a percentage of WSBC premium paid on assessable payroll of the year of certification against the base rate. That way, companies with good experience ratings (that is, they're assessed below the base rate) don't receive a proportionally lower rebate.

We're going to use a specific example to show you how the rebate is calculated: a payroll of \$2 million would be typical for an integrated forest management (stump-to-dump) company of about 25 workers. Its classification unit is CU 703008 so its base rate is \$9.46 per \$100 of assessable payroll. That means the company will get a rebate of about \$9460 (the assessable payroll ÷ 100 X the base rate X

the 5% COR rebate).

You can expect to see your cheque in the amount of your rebate in June if you were SAFE certified in 2007. You don't have to do anything to get it — it will automatically be mailed to you by WSBC.

JOHNATHAN WILSON: A TESTAMENT TO HUMAN CAPACITY

Johnathan Wilson easily recalls when his upper body and right forearm were crushed in a falling accident — it was the afternoon of November 29, 2000 — but he remembers nothing about the accident itself. Rather, he knows what happened through the investigation reports, and all the trauma and adjustments he has had to contend with — 2 weeks in VGH's trauma centre, 7 surgeries, months of rehab, learning to write again with his left hand and even coping with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although his injuries were critical and the road back challenging, one of the most difficult things for Wilson, who is now a safety auditor advisor (Quality Assurance) for SAFE Companies, was saying goodbye to his old profession.

"There was a lot of decision-making — exiting the whole forestry thing and selling my power saws and anything to do with logging," says Wilson. "Getting over that hurdle and saying, okay, this is no longer going to be in my life, I found that situation very hard."

Luckily Wilson met Nick Mills, vocational rehabilitation consultant at WorkSafeBC, who suggested a career in occupational health and safety; Wilson enrolled in the diploma program at BCIT. It was perfect fit, given he has more than 25 years falling with no incidents, until his serious accident, and a long history in first aid, including his industrial first aid ticket and a survival first aid trainer certificate.

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"I also found out I had a lot of life skills that could be utilized, like being able to understand where other people were coming from and just having a better awareness of safety from the years and years of working in hazardous situations as fallers do," he says.

Mills has been working in rehabilitation for 20 years. He will be presenting Wilson's case as a study in success at WorkSafeBC's provincial conference in April, along with the Forest Safety Council's director of Forest Worker Development, Steve Mueller.



Johnathan Wilson is grateful to his mentor, BCFSC's safety auditor Kim Taylor, for her help.

"Despite an extremely significant injury, John's been very motivated to overcome potential adversity," says Mills. "He's extremely committed to whatever he applies himself, is very adaptable and driven."

"Taking into account how significant his injuries are and how long he was off work, it's seldom that someone will go back to work as successfully as John has. It's a testament to his human capacity to turn a potential negative into such a positive."

Wilson loves his new position with the Forest Safety Council. He is actively involved in providing guidance to companies that are involved in the BC Forest Safety Council SAFE Companies program and is part of the Quality Assurance review team. He's also setting up training for independent owner operators, and doing some training himself.

"The primary thing is I've been on the flip side of the coin," Wilson says. "So when I'm training a group of people, I can draw out in my audience personal experiences that people share. It brings the group together and makes training that much easier when there is a lot of respect for each other in the room."

"This is a dedication for me," he adds. "I'm paying back to the industry because of the number of close friends I've lost in forestry-related accidents."



SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY MEETINGS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOW-UP

Safety meetings are an integral part of any company's safety program. They can be anything from a regularly scheduled monthly safety meeting or a new work area meeting, to an informal tailgate meeting or crew talk. Whatever form they take, these meetings are important opportunities to communicate safety information. Topics are endless — they could include reviewing a current site map with any new hazards identified; discussing changes to emergency response plans, or even something as simple as identifying the person in charge of the project.

However, one component of safety meetings that is often overlooked is the follow-up — who is going to do what by when? For this, it's critical to record items that require action and assign a person to be accountable for completing the action by the agreed date. Use your Corrective Action Log (CAL), which many of you are familiar with, to record your action items and progress.

Safety meetings are important documentary evidence for the SAFE companies program, so make every effort to do a good job of recording who is present, what topics are covered and when they take place. And remember to share the records with all employees, dependent contractors, small employers and individual owner operators who work for you so they can be included in your day-to-day safety plans. That helps to make safety an overriding priority in the forest sector.



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

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