



Falling

FTAC receives its sub-committee's feedback on revised faller training materials

Two Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) members, Dazy Weymer and Jack Miller, shared their feedback on the revised new faller training learning resources in both written and oral presentations to the rest of FTAC at the group's June 1, 2018 meeting.

Both fallers, along with Neil Campbell (he couldn't make the meeting), were part of the three-member FTAC sub-committee that volunteered to review the materials. Several other FTAC members have been falling, bucking and training subject matter experts in the development of the learning resource materials.

At an earlier FTAC meeting in March this year, some FTAC members had expressed concern that FTAC had not yet had the opportunity to review the new faller learning resources that will be used for the pilot phase of the program which resulted in the sub-committee being struck to review the materials.

"I wanted to know that the revised faller training materials were really going to be right for industry," said Dazy. To that end, the sub-committee met several times to review the content, discuss their impressions, and give corrections, changes and other feedback to further improve the materials.

He said that after reviewing the materials, they were able to provide input. "I guess one would never be finished if one kept reviewing them over and over again," said Dazy, "but I am comfortable now that I know what is in them and that we've had the opportunity to provide feedback – which we hope will help make them more useful."

In their written report, the sub-committee said:

"Our review of the instructional materials was mainly centred on the learning resources. These are made up of the knowledge requirements for chainsaw operation, bucking and falling. Between the three of us, we identified numerous additions, deletions and corrections to the materials. We were able to incorporate these edits into the document in meetings on May 15 and 16. It is our collective feeling that the learning resources are providing an adequate body of knowledge for trainees to learn about chainsaw operation, bucking and falling."



Fallers Jack Miller and Dazy Weymer after they presented their feedback on the new learning resources for the new faller training program to FTAC.



Rob Moonen, BCFSC CEO, provides an update to FTAC on fatality and injury incidents in industry.

One of the key elements that they believe still needs to be added to the materials is around ergonomics and body positioning – both critical elements in safety and efficiency. “The lesson plans and instructor guide do not specifically guide the instructor here. The statement ‘use appropriate body and hand positions’ is often used. Ongoing quality assurance throughout the pilot process is recommended to achieve the desired consistency in instruction from all QFTs and QSTs. It would be helpful to identify industry best practise regarding appropriate body and hand positions.”

Overall, Dazy said: “Right now I am pretty happy with it.”

Jack said that it was good that the three of them had gone over it. “We made about 100 edits,” he said and added that he felt “the bones were there.” Jack said they all realized a lot of work and hours had gone into the development of the materials, and still with more eyes on the materials, some really important things had been missed, which they had caught in the review. For example in a section on weather considerations, while a good list was provided, a key safety consideration – sunshine – was missing. Similarly in a wildfire section, wind was not discussed which again is a critical safety element to consider.

The FTAC sub-committee will continue to be involved in the process and will be reviewing the materials at least two more times, after successful pilots and feedback from the field as well as after WorkSafeBC reviews.

Looking forward both Dazy and Jack shared that it will continue to be critical to ensure that there is consistency by trainers in delivering the training. The sub-committee felt that it was a simple system once you’ve gone through it a few times; and, that it is very easy to use. “I do think there will be more consistency in training because you have to go through the training in sequence, rather than jumping around as is done currently,” said Dazy.

“In the end, I think it is going to be a really good program,” said Jack.

Overall, the sub-committee wants to make sure that any changes made during the pilots and by WorkSafeBC maintain the intended meaning, are clear and simple to understand.

Rob Moonen, BC Forest Safety Council CEO again emphasized how important it was that everyone – all FTAC members in particular – have a comfort level with the materials. He said that on day 10 of the first pilot (as at June 1, 2018) – the first four trainees with four trainers were in field being trained using the new materials, tools and process. He said feedback from the WorkSafeBC officer observing the training as well as feedback from the trainers had been positive so far. 🍌

Update on new faller training pilot

FTAC also received an update on the status of the first pilot of the new faller training learning resources.

- Pilot started on May 23, 2018 in Northwest Bay
- Four trainees and four trainers
- Trainees range in age from 21-31 years of age and have between three weeks and six years in the forest industry – which means unlearning some bad habits for some and learning all new skills for others or a mix
- Each trainee self-funded their \$27,500 tuition to attend the training
- All four trainees successfully completed the pre-screen testing; results were shared with each of the candidates respectively and with their trainers to support the best learning experience for each one
- All four trainees successfully completed the training (see photo below)
- WorkSafeBC has confirmed that the learning outcomes have been met for all four of the trainees
- All feedback from the trainees and trainers will be considered and applied and tried in the August pilot
- Ongoing improvement work already identified includes thinning text heavy sections, updating pictures, including more videos and removing duplications in lesson plans
- Both Energy Safety Canada (formerly Enform) and BC Wildfire Service will also run pilots later this year
- At the successful completion of the pilots, the revised learning resources – including all feedback – will then be summarized in a final draft which will be submitted to WorkSafeBC for final review and approval for broad roll-out to industry beginning in 2019.



The first New Faller Training Pilot (course #61) took place in Northwest Bay from May 23 – June 24, 2018. Front row (sitting, from left) are Assistant Trainers, Trevor Herron and Wayne Miller; and Lead Trainer, John Jacobsen. Back row (standing, from left) successful participants Zackary Morin, Jerritd Anderson, Tyler Spier and Nicolas Gagnon; and, Assistant Trainer, Pierre Gagnon. 🍌

FTAC determines that ongoing quality assurance is needed for Certified Falling Supervisors

The Certified Falling Supervisor (CFS) designation is an industry-recognized standard which identifies falling supervisors as having the necessary training, skills, and experience to successfully oversee falling operations and demonstrates their commitment to ensuring faller safety.

To date, almost 150 falling supervisors have been certified since the program was introduced.

Based on recommendations from the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) that solid supervision skills need to be confirmed over time, ongoing quality assurance (QA)

field visits are required to maintain the CFS designation.

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) will continue to perform the initial 6-12 month QA evaluations on all new CFSs and will now aim to also perform QA on a random 10% of CFSs each year. There is no fee for a QA visit.

For more information on CFS certification, please visit: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/99> and if you have any follow-up questions, please contact a BCFSC falling safety advisor at toll-free **1-877-741-1060** or email faller@bcforestsafe.org 🍌