

FTAC Faller Questionnaire 2015/2016

The Faller Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) consists of approximately 30 fallers and others, representing coastal fallers, interior fallers, small and large falling contractors, union fallers, licensee representatives, BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Silviculture, BC Wildfire Service, utility arborists, Enform, WorkSafeBC and BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC). The key objective of FTAC is to support initiatives in industry that will improve faller safety, reducing serious incidents and fatalities.

This is the first survey that FTAC has put together to receive feedback from fallers so that FTAC can be confident that it focuses on the safety issues most often identified by fallers. The survey is being mailed to 2,500 certified fallers in BC.

The survey has 56 questions and should take you approximately 15 minutes or less to complete. Please insert your completed survey into the pre-stamped return envelope and mail it. **All surveys are anonymous and confidential.**

A summary of the data collected will be shared publicly with all fallers and the rest of industry including via the BCFSC website and Forest Safety News newsletter.

Thank you for your time and valuable input, which will help shape FTAC's future initiatives and actions to best support fallers and faller safety in the forest industry.

About you

1. Are you actively working as a BC certified faller? (check all that apply)

- Yes No Working in another occupation
 Retired Injured Actively looking for work as a faller

2. Where do you currently work as a faller? (check all that apply)

- Lower Mainland Vancouver Island
 Okanagan Kootenays
 Omineca Peace Thompson
 Skeena Cariboo
 Other, please specify: _____

3. How many years of falling experience do you have?

- 1-5 years 6-10 years 11-15 years
 16-20 years 20-25 years 26-30 years
 31-35 years 36-40 years more than 41 years

4. What type of terrain do you work in currently?

- 0 to 30% gradient
 31% to 50% gradient
 Greater than 50% gradient
 Other, please specify: _____

5. What type of timber do you fall?
 Old growth
 Secondary growth, interior
 Secondary growth, coastal
 Other, please specify: _____
6. How many fallers are generally on your crew?
 1-10 11-20 21-30 31-40 More than 41
7. Rates and payment. Are you a:
 Union faller, with a set hourly rate
 Production faller, set day rate including travel and other expenses
 Production faller, set day rate excluding travel and other expenses
 Other, please specify: _____
8. Do you feel you are getting a fair wage for your work?
 Yes
 No
Please explain your answer: _____

9. What is the morale in your operation?
 Excellent. Love going to work. Feel safe. Feel what I say matters. I am happy.
 Good. I feel safe. I believe I matter.
 Not so good. I don't feel like I can speak up. I feel unsafe at times.
 Needs improvement. I am worried there is going to be an incident. We work under threat of being fired or not having contracts renewed if we raise safety concerns.
 None of the above. _____

10. Did the faller training you received properly prepare you for the work you do?
 Yes
 Mostly
 Not sure
 No
 Other: _____

Your safety

11. Do you feel that safety is the #1 priority in your company?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes
- Other, please explain: _____

12. Are there barriers to following safe work procedures?

- Yes
 - No
- Please explain your answer: _____

13. What prevents you from reporting close calls?

- Nothing
- I don't think the supervisor/company wants to hear
- Culture of workplace
- Production comes first here
- Fear that I will be blackballed
- Other, please specify: _____

14. Have you ever been pressured to cut corners or compromise safety to achieve plan objectives?

- Often
- More than once
- Once
- Never
- Other, please specify: _____

15. Do you have an avenue to talk about safety concerns and close calls?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

16. What makes you feel safe at work?

Please explain: _____

17. Are you comfortable bringing up concerns?

- Yes
- No
- It depends

Please explain: _____

18. Are there production pressures at work that compromise your safety?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

Please explain: _____

19. Do you feel comfortable voicing your concerns at regular safety meetings?

- Yes
- No
- It depends

Please explain: _____

20. When you have safety concerns or recommendations, are they addressed?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

Please explain: _____

21. Are you willing to speak to your falling partner if you feel they are doing something unsafe?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

22. Is there adequate time to do a hazard assessment prior to falling?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

23. Do you think safety has improved for fallers? Have safety initiatives of the past eight years made a positive difference?

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, somewhat
- Unsure
- No
- New issues need to be addressed
- Other

Please explain: _____

Unsafe work

24. Is there a barrier to exercising the right to refuse unsafe work?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Haven't had an issue personally
- If you have experienced a barrier, please explain what it was:

25. Would you feel comfortable refusing unsafe work?

- Yes
- No

Please explain why: _____

Qualified Assistance

26. Do you have access to another qualified faller for qualified assistance?

- Yes
- No
- Some of the time

27. Have you utilized qualified assistance?

- Yes
- No

28. Do you feel comfortable asking for Qualified Assistance?

- Yes
- No

Supervision

29. Do you feel there is adequate supervision of fallers?

- Yes
- No
- Depends

Please explain: _____

30. Do you feel bull buckers/falling supervisors are supported by owner/licensee when his workers refuse to work under the unsafe work clause?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other: _____

31. Does your supervisor have the time to supervise you well?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other: _____

32. Do you feel that management/supervisors are communicating at appropriate times? (e.g. safety plans, ERP, company plans, expectations, discipline, etc.)

- Yes
- No
- Depends on the supervisor
- Other, please explain: _____

33. Do you feel that you can communicate openly with your supervisor and/or management?

- Yes, I can raise anything
- No
- As long as I only have good news
- Other: _____

34. Do you feel that your bull bucker/falling supervisor would "go to bat" for you?

- Yes
- No
- Other, please explain: _____

35. Do you feel that your bull bucker/falling supervisor addresses safety issues/concerns proactively?
- Yes
 - No
 - Other: _____

Blockplan – Worksite

36. Is the block layout creating a risk for fallers?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
 - Other, please explain: _____

37. Is the harvesting plan and sequence of operations creating additional risk for fallers?
- Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
 - Don't know

38. Do you, as a faller, feel you have influence in the work plans that directly affect you?
- Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
 - It depends
- Please explain: _____

39. What does phase congestion mean to you?
- Please explain: _____

40. Is phase congestion an issue on your site?
- Yes
 - No
 - Other, please explain: _____

41. Does planning allow safe working distances from other phases?
 Yes
 No
 Other, please explain: _____

42. Do you find that your pre-works address all concerns and hazards?
 Yes
 No
 Mostly
 Sometimes
 Other, please explain: _____

43. What alternate methods are available at your worksite for dealing with hazards?
Please check all that apply:
 Access to danger tree blasting
 Machine assist
Other: _____

ERP

44. Do you feel the ERP is effective and that medical assistance is readily available?
 Yes
 No
 I don't know
Other: _____

45. Do you feel that the established ERP is adequate every day?
 Yes
 No
 Not sure
 Other, please explain: _____

46. What do you think would make your ERP more effective? Check all that apply:
- Review the plan and discuss it
 - Practice it regularly
 - Have a back-up evacuation plan if the heli-vac cannot get in
 - Testing that all equipment is ready and working
 - Having a back-up Level 3 first aider
 - Better coordination with other phases
 - Other, please explain: _____

47. What do you find are the common breakdowns in ERP? _____

BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is the forest industry’s health & safety association, directed by industry to help support better safety, health & wellness for all forestry workers.

48. How do you feel about the BCFSC? (Check all that apply)
- Unsure of what they actually do
 - Generally positive
 - Have had good experiences with falling safety advisors from the BCFSC
 - See it as an unnecessary bureaucracy
 - Don’t know where BCFSC begins and WorkSafeBC ends
 - Other, please explain: _____

49. Is this the same as you felt about the BCFSC five or six years ago?
- Yes
 - No
 - More positive now
 - Less positive now
- Please explain: _____

50. Are you aware of the free services the BCFSC provides to fallers? Please check all that you know of:
- Confidential company review
 - Falling supervisor certification preparation
 - In field training to support certified fallers and falling supervisors
 - Faller & supervisor visits
 - Faller/blaster coaching & mentoring
 - Incident investigation assistance
 - Management coaching & mentoring
 - Remedial/skills upgrade training

Comments: _____

51. What would you like to see the BCFSC – as forestry’s health & safety association on behalf of industry – do to support fallers and faller safety going forward?

WorkSafeBC, is the regulator that sets standards and regulations that are intended to keep workers safe and employers responsible for the safety of all workers on a worksite.

52. Do WorkSafeBC inspections help prevent serious injuries and fatalities?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
- Other, please specify: _____

53. Do WorkSafeBC inspections create upset conditions?

- Yes
- No
- They don’t bother me
- They bother me, put me off my focus
- Other, please specify: _____

54. Do you feel that WorkSafeBC regulations address your safety concerns?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know
- Other, please specify: _____

55. When was the last time you had/saw a WorkSafeBC officer on your worksite?

- In the past week
- In the past month
- In the past year
- In the past two years
- Never, that I know of personally
- Other: _____
