

Forest Worker Development

BULLETIN

May 2010

Certified Faller Update

This update is distributed by email to all BC Certified Fallers. Current information on the Council's faller programs and other activities can be found on the Council website at www.bcforestsafe.org or by calling the toll free number at 1-877-741-1060.

Coroner's Death Review Panel Recommendations

Did you know that in January, the Coroner's Death Review Panel released a report on faller fatalities? Fifteen panelists were convened in 2009 to review a number of past faller deaths and make recommendations to help prevent future serious incidents and fatalities. Many of the recommendations were directed at the Forest Safety Council, as well as WorkSafeBC and other parties.

The 2010 'Enhanced Falling Initiative' is the Council's response to the Death Review Panel report and it maps out how we will work with industry in responding to the recommendations. The Falling Initiative provides the additional industry support that the existing faller programs require to continue driving the serious injury and fatality rates lower. The main focus of the initiative is on implementing a Falling Supervisor Training Standard. The falling initiative also addresses the Coroner's recommendations specific to faller safety performance tracking, integration of faller documentation with SAFE Companies, and the promotion of research into safe falling processes and alternatives. To view the full report, refer to our website at:

<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/files/newsroom/publications/death-review-panel-treefallers.pdf>

Falling Supervisor Training and Certification

Are you aware that WorkSafeBC Regulation 26.22.1 requires a Qualified Supervisor to be designated for all falling and associated bucking activities in a forestry operation? Various reports and reviews indicate that a lack of planning and adequate supervision continue to contribute to faller fatalities and serious injuries. To date, there has not been a clearly-defined and industry-accepted standard for the necessary duties, skills and competencies of qualified falling supervisors.

The Forest Safety Council, through an industry selection committee, brought together a province-wide group of falling supervisors to address qualified supervision. A professional facilitator assisted in the process along with WorkSafeBC present in an observer role. The group created a falling supervisor DACUM chart, which defines the duties of a falling supervisor. The Faller Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) has reviewed the chart, as well as a new falling supervisor training course and proposed certification levels. The chart has also been reviewed by other relevant parties, including licensees, USW, and WorkSafeBC. Feedback has been requested at every interaction.

Work continues in revising the Faller Supervisor training course (to be completed in the third quarter of 2010) and development of an evaluation process for qualified

falling supervisor certification. The supervisor evaluation and skills assessment component will be pilot tested in the field in May. The DACUM participants have recommended that individuals who meet all the pre-requisites and successfully complete the field evaluation be granted certification from the Council.

The certification maintenance and fee structure for Falling Supervisor certification needs to be finalized and approved by the Council's Board of Directors. It is anticipated that the process will be completed once the pilot testing is completed.

What about the '3 Assignment Process'? To date, approximately 95 falling supervisors have registered for the 'Pilot Faller Supervisor Certification Process'. The DACUM representatives have recommended that the 3 Assignment process be made optional for certification, **but still "highly recommended."** Completing the 3 Faller Evaluation Assignments will help the Falling Supervisor understand how to effectively use the BC Faller Training Standard when assessing their fallers. A working knowledge of the BC Faller Training Standard is one of the required elements to successfully pass the Falling Supervisor Skills Assessment for certification. The completion of the 3 assignments will also be mandatory for falling supervisors wishing to go on to obtain their QS/T status.

Are you in good standing with the Council?

Good standing means paying your annual faller certification fees prior to your card expiry date and also complying with any re-evaluation requirements. You will be notified in writing when you are required to have your re-evaluation submitted. Your supervisor must be evaluating your workmanship regularly. If you have a job to go to and need to bring your account up-to-date, please contact the Council toll-free at 1-877-741-1060. Upon meeting your renewal requirements, a letter of confirmation of your good standing with the Council can be issued to your employer.

New Faller Training Course

BCFSC has developed a new model of training delivery that will split the training into three distinct modules: a 5 day classroom and field course called "Faller Prep with Basic Chainsaw Operator certification" and a 25 day field course called "Falling Basics" and then a period of working as a trainee faller for up to 180 days with a Qualified Company / Supervisor.

This new model will serve industry's interests in improving the quality of training graduates available for employment. This model will be tested for at least the next faller training intake and then reassessed for effectiveness, trainee feedback and industry evaluation of the training graduates. Based on that assessment, further delivery under this model will be considered.

The Council is open to additional proposals on the delivery of New Faller Training. To discuss this opportunity, please contact Steve Mueller at 1-877-741-1060. If you know of anyone interested in attending the New Faller Training course please have them contact the Council at training@bcforestsafe.org.

Danger Tree Blasting Certification

There is a Dangerous Tree Faller Blaster course scheduled May 18-21. For information or to register, please contact training@bcforestsafe.org.

Basic Chainsaw Operator Course

The Council will be offering a Train-the-Trainer session for Chainsaw Instructors. If you are interested in applying to be a recognized trainer, please contact us at training@bcforestsafe.org for more details on pre-requisites, costs, etc. For more information, visit our website at: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/training.html>

Western Fallers Association

The Western Fallers Association (WFA) has requested that the Council assist in their development of a faller data base to send out WFA newsletters and other up-to-date information from the WFA. To be included in this database, please forward your email and contact information to westernfallers@yahoo.com or phone either Glenn Erickson at 250.825.9306 or Mike Hennigan at 604.264.9460. You can also visit their web site at www.westernfallers.com

Financial Assistance For Training

As a worker or employer, you may qualify for government financial assistance to attend Council-provided training courses. For details, please visit our website at: http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/files/Training_Funding_FINAL_Dec7-09.pdf.

The Truck Loggers Association has requested that we advise you that certain courses like ***S100: Basic Fire Suppression and Safety*** are also available for funding.

Eligible funding participants for the Truck Loggers Association courses must:

- Have previously worked in the forest industry
- Be self-employed or, unemployed and not eligible for Employment Insurance
- Reside in one of the pilot program Development Regions: Vancouver Island, Cariboo, Nechako, Northeast, or the North Coast
- Not be receiving support for the same training through another source
- For further information on your eligibility call (604) 684-4291 ext. 6.

Safety Advocate Services

Does your company need assistance with understanding Falling Supervisor duties, SAFE Companies requirements, Incident Investigations, Crew Meetings, PPE compliance, how to manage and track your safety systems or other processes? The Council has a new expanded safety advocate service available. Contact Aaron Sarrazin at sarrazin@bcforestsafe.org for more information.

Faller Technical Advisory Committee

A faller technical advisory committee meets twice per year to discuss issues relevant to fallers. The FTAC will be reviewing the BC Faller Training Standard this Spring. Please send questions or comments to ftac@bcforestsafe.org.

More Information

If you have any questions or ideas for future faller bulletins, please contact us at ftac@bcforestsafe.org or 1-877-741-1060.

