



Welcome, contract fallers

The Council has a new member organization — the Contract Fallers Association of B.C. CFA Chair Peter Sprout will represent the association on the Council's Board of Directors.

Formed this year, the CFA represents contractors employing fallers. The Association intends to contribute to safety solutions, providing a voice on safety programs and procedures from the perspective of falling contractors.

SAFE Companies dates

Here are important SAFE Companies program dates.

New Year's deadline: December 31 is the deadline for maintenance audits to be submitted by anyone SAFE-certified in 2007. Audits meeting certification requirements may qualify for a 10-per-cent rebate on 2008 WorkSafeBC premiums. For details, call 1-877-741-1060.

Certification a must: As of January 1, all BC Timber Sales (BCTS) contracts and timber sale licences will require SAFE certification of anyone:

- > Employing or directing workers or contractors on timber sale licences.
- > Bidding on BCTS contracts, unless they have prior appropriate exemptions in place.

BCTS also notes that "subcontractors working on contracts must be certified to the same expectations as the principal contractor."

These requirements reflect the government agency's drive for a renewed forest safety culture, building on its own achievement of SAFE certification in August.

More information is available at regional BCTS offices.

Website renovation

The Council has launched a new version of its website, offering enhanced online access to key information on improving forest safety in British Columbia.

New features focus on a simple, clean design with easy navigation to different areas of the site. Check it out at www.bcforest.org.

Heartfelt wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe and healthy new year

– From the Board and staff of the BC Forest Safety Council

Founding CEO bids a farewell

This will be my last contribution to the Council's newsletter.

I indicated two years ago that I would be leaving at this time, and that day is now here — New Year's Eve, 2009. It is a good time to reflect on the past and look to the future.

First the past.

I've been the Council's CEO for four years (1,460 days!), and so much has been done. At the start, we had no staff, no budget and no location. What we did have were a vision, a plan and a bunch of promises, all of which have been kept.

The Council hit the ground running with space, shared facilities and systems made available to us by the Council of Forest Industries. We also benefited from the support and input of the entire sector that set aside differences and came together around the shared value of safety for workers.

We assembled a dedicated staff, soon aided by many others throughout the province — trainers, auditors, safety advocates and hundreds of individuals committed to making a difference.



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VIN now online, too

The Council's Vehicle Information Number (VIN) program is expanding to allow online reporting of unsafe vehicles on resource roads, in addition to previously available phone and fax reporting.

"There's no room on forestry roads for aggressive or careless driving. We can only correct unsafe driving if we can track the driver back to the company responsible," said Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell in December about the move to online reporting.

The two-year-old voluntary Council program is intended to reduce crashes and unsafe driving and help employers monitor their vehicles, according to Forestry Truck-Safe Director MaryAnne Arcand.

The new online capability allows quick identification of vehicles in unsafe situations so road users can report the owners.

About 5,000 vehicles carry unique VIN plates — from pick-ups to logging trucks operated by contractors, forestry companies, government agencies, First Nations and other owners.

More information is at www.bcforestsafe.org/forestry_trucksafe/tool_truckers/vin.html.

New Year's regulation

This is a reminder that amendments to WorkSafeBC regulations on the safe transportation of workers take effect January 1.

Announced in October, the changes include:

- > A new requirement that worker transportation vehicles used off highways must satisfy seat belt assembly requirements under the Motor Vehicle Act, as well as its separate regulatory seating requirements — as if the vehicles were on highways.
- > Clarifying that the definition of a worker transportation vehicle applies to vehicles carrying three or more workers such as the multi-passenger vehicles and crew cabs most commonly used to transport workers.

Details can be found by scrolling down to "Part 17, Transportation of Workers" at www.worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/public_hearings/june08_ph_feedback/law_40_40_20.asp.

Tanner's farewell

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There is more to say about all that has been accomplished than will fit in this space. Suffice to say that the industry's safety performance is improving, with a solid foundation for future progress firmly in place.

Which brings me to the future.

Much remains to be done— no "mission accomplished" here. Significant and lasting change takes time. Our health and safety infrastructure must continue to be developed. Attitudes must continue to change. We are not there yet.

But progress will be made, even in the difficult times now confronting us. Safety is fundamental to our industry's long term success and must be integral to the forest industry of tomorrow.

I thank you all for the last four years. I am better for the experience.

Most important, the Council is in excellent hands. I have no doubt that it will grow in stature and influence, making "Unsafe Is Unacceptable" a reality.



Tanner Elton
CEO, 2004-2008

Coming attractions

January 13-16 — Truck Loggers Association Convention, Vancouver; details at www.tla.ca

January 19-21 — Northern Silviculture Committee Winter Workshop, Prince George; phone Rob Bryce at 250-960-5982

January 23-24 — B.C. Natural Resources Forum, Prince George; details at www.eventscreators.com/businessstechshow/nrc/nrconference.html

February 4-6 — Western Silviculture Contractors' Annual Conference, Victoria; details at www.wsca.ca/index.php?Page=241.0&Key=706

February 26-27 — Association of BC Forest Professionals ExpoFor, Prince George; details at www.expofor.ca

April 1-3 — Council of Forest Industries Annual Convention, Prince George; details at www.cofi.org/whats_new/default.htm

