



Extending safety programs to the manufacturing sector

Decisions this spring could potentially see the Council extend its programs to the province's wood products manufacturing (WPM) sector — from sawmills to pulp mills — and become their health and safety association.

The Board of Directors instructed staff in late 2008 to begin exploring the inclusion of the WPM sector. As of this January, that became a two-track process focusing on:

- » Sector wide consultations about the Council becoming the WPM health and safety association. This involves consulting employer organizations, unions and companies with emphasis on small operations.
- » Input from a newly-formed WPM technical advisory committee providing feedback on the development of SAFE Companies' audit standards for the sector.

These activities are to be finished in late March, and the Board of Directors expects to consider the outcomes of industry consultation at its April meeting.

Work on WPM safety development is being funded separately from the Council's ongoing budget for timber harvesting safety programs.

You responded in spades

Maintain the momentum. That's what the Council's SAFE Companies program asked the forest industry in late 2008, and "the response came in spades," according to Director Krista Bax.

Ninety per cent of SAFE-certified companies submitted maintenance audits for renewal of their certifications by the December 31 deadline. "This demonstrates their strong ongoing commitment to worker safety," said Bax.

By late January, 1455 companies were certified, with 4136 registered to earn SAFE certification.

For more on SAFE Companies, go to www.bcforestsafesafe.org/safe_companies.html.

Good safety is good business

In today's tough times, the best forward-looking operators are making safety a key part of their core operating values and how they plan and conduct their businesses.

They are integrating sound safety policies and procedures into their operations, resulting in fewer injuries, lower costs, higher productivity and better worker morale.

The fact is — safety is simply good business. It's as important as watching your cash flow. Sound safety practices set a pattern for training, awareness and planning effectiveness in all parts of your operation.

Building on the work of the last four years, the Council will be working to enhance and improve our practical safety tools, resources and programs. In addition, we will help facilitate a cultural shift that positions safety and good business practices as one and the same.

This means that across the province, we will help companies of all sizes integrate safety into their operations

I know that people who earn a living in the woods are as tough as these times, and that B.C. forestry will come back and prosper. Working together, we will make the workplace safety changes that build better companies and a stronger industry.



Bev Briscoe
Chair and Acting CEO

New online safety information

Check our website for these new publications.

Council Work Plan, 2009: Details of plans for forest safety programs through the coming year; www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/files/workplan_2009.pdf.

2008 in Review – Faller Supervisor Alert: How eight fallers lost their lives last year, and tips on making 2009 safer; www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/885.



Member feature: Planting the seeds of safer silvicultural workplaces in B.C.



This feature on the Western Silvicultural Contractors' Association (WSCA) begins a series on the major forestry organizations making up the Council Board.

"From a safety perspective, training is particularly important to us because of our changing work force. "A lot of experienced workers have exited in the last few years to be replaced by young workers," said WSCA Executive Director John Betts.

"Training is no substitute for experience, but it's critical that we prepare young workers through proper training. We want to make sure the experiences they get don't come at a high cost. That is, they don't learn by catastrophe."

The Association is working to launch three programs this year, "all based on the principle that people need to demonstrate competency at the end of the day, Betts explained.

Resource Road Driver Training: Applicable to all operators running light trucks on resource roads, this course will be available to companies for presentation to their employees. "It's commonly misunderstood that a Class 4 license prepares you for resource roads, but it's basically only about the number of seats in the vehicle," said Betts. The resource road training focuses on the design and handling characteristics of light trucks, and how resource road conditions affect driving. The course also spends time on behavioral issues because "people actually become hard-wired to drive in certain ways, and we try to unteach bad driving habits."

Coming attractions

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

April 6-7 — Western Conference On Safety; Vancouver; details from BC Safety Council at www.pacificsafetycenter.com

April 16-18 — Interior Logging Association Convention & Trade Show, Vernon, details at www.interiorlogging.org

ATV Training: WSCA has run pilots of this program and prepared a stable of trainers to deliver it. From student and trainer evaluations, "our strategic advisory committee learns every time we teach the course," said Betts.

Silviculture Supervisor Training: This program is built on the foundation of the Council's basic supervisor training, which WSCA adapted with "new content addressing specific silviculture circumstances," explained Betts.

A total of three days' instruction can be delivered in two separate parts. First is crew boss training for those "actually directing workers in the field." Next is supervisor training for someone who "oversees an entire project and may have several crew bosses reporting to them."

WSCA's program and training committees work on course content and delivery models under a partnership agreement with the Council.

For information on the training courses, email info@wsca.ca. Visit www.wsca.ca to find out more about the association's other activities.



WSCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN BETTS

Speeders under the gun

More radar guns on resource roads is good news for log haulers because they generally aren't the problem, according to Forestry TruckSafe Director MaryAnne Arcand.

Announcing expanded enforcement in early January, Minister of Forests and Range Pat Bell said chronic, repeat offenders could be fined up to \$1 million for speeding and dangerous driving on forest service roads.

The speed limit, 80 km or as posted, is "awfully fast already for gravel roads that may have pot holes and maintenance issues," said Arcand. She noted that recreational drivers are a concern because "once they get off the highway, it's pedal to the metal."

