

Forest Safety news

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Forest Worker Development

System expansion fits industry needs

Responding to evolving industry needs, the Council has launched an improved safety advocate system — expanding the scope of both advocate activities and the resources forest companies can draw on.

The old system was started in 2007 and has helped hundreds of small timber harvesting operations through the audit process leading to certification with the SAFE Companies program.

“But now we hear from companies of all sizes looking for additional assistance,” explains Forest Worker Development Director Steve Mueller.

“Some want to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their health and safety programs. Others look for advocate services offering more specialized knowledge and skill sets. Still others want help making safety an essential part of their business planning and success.”

That led to the Council decision to make advocates available around the province to address issues specific to individual operations wanting to achieve better safety and business results. Specialized consultations by advocates can be developed and provided on request.

“All the advocates have significant on-the-ground experience in developing and running forest safety programs, and can mentor leaders at individual companies as they make a reality of the phrase ‘safety pays in many ways,’” says Steve.

“This is another way the Council helps the forest industry meet its commitment to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities. It’s an easy, smart safety move for your business.”

There is no charge for operations that have registered with SAFE Companies and completed its training requirements.

Details are at www.bcforestsafes.org/safetyadvocate, including an application form that can be completed and submitted online.

CEO's Message

A different challenge as markets strengthen



REYNOLD HERT

During the downturn, the industry maintained its focus on safety and continued reducing fatalities and serious injuries. This year, leaders of companies and contractors face a different challenge as the markets strengthen.

The industry is calling people back to work, adding shifts and restarting operations. Fortunately, the same principles of preventing injuries can be applied in gearing an operation up, as managing in difficult times. In both cases, these principles help control total cost.

The fundamental question that leadership of an operation should ask is, “Are we ready to do business well as we start the crews back up?”

Here is a basic check list:

- » Do we have a solid design and plan for our operation?
- » Do people know how to use the equipment the way we expect to operate reliably?
- » What training is needed to refresh or make sure people really work effectively in the business?
- » Are the right tools in place, ready to be used?
- » Do I as the supervisor have “walk around” times scheduled to check that the operation runs the way we expect and that people have the skills, knowledge and tools to operate in a way to avoid negative surprises.

A solid reliable start-up plan ensures good quality, cost control and injury prevention. A poorly-planned, rushed start up costs money, affects your reputation with customers and can lead to surprises that can damage equipment and injure people.

SEE **SOLID START-UP PLANNING**, P3 >



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

Forest Safety News is published by the BC Forest Safety Council to inform members and others about workplace health-and-safety developments affecting the forest industry.

Have a story or comments? Contact us at news@bcforestsafes.org

SAFE Companies

Streamlined SAFE Companies audits on schedule for summer introduction

As highlighted in previous newsletters, the Council is acting on forest industry concerns to streamline and improve the SAFE Companies audit process, while maintaining its effectiveness in supporting fatality and injury reduction.

That work began in December and is on schedule for completion by the end of June, the target to introduce revised audit protocols for individual owner operators (IOO), small employers (ISEBASE and SEBASE) and large companies (BASE).

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

"This is part of the Council's continual improvement process. "Even after the revisions, we encourage you

to give us feedback on what works and what doesn't," said SAFE Companies Director Steve Chaplin.

"Your ideas on improving the audit process help us meet the industry's safety needs."

The Council's Board of Directors are reviewing the revised audit protocols in June after final scrutiny by WorkSafeBC.

Given the required approvals, the revisions will be launched June 30, 2010. But it will not be until January 1, 2011, that companies will be required to use the new protocols.

Key improvements will include:

- » Less paperwork, resulting in lower costs to companies and faster Council response times.
- » Maintenance audits no longer requiring submission of documents that don't change from year to year; for example, a company's basic health and safety policy.
- » New technical audit modules for specific high-risk activities (for example, lockout, confined spaces, falling, respirators and hot works).
- » Elimination of redundant questions and topics.
- » Easy-to-use forms to assemble the audit packages.

INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

Those and other changes incorporate feedback from industry, as well as the results of pilots of the audit revisions conducted in April.

"The pilot audits were critical practical tests, and the Council thanks the participating companies," said Steve.

Testing involved Council staff guiding individual owner operators and small employers through their audits by phone or in person. For large companies, Council staff completed the test audits, including injury management and return to work elements.

The pilots yielded valuable feedback, not only from the customers participating in the process but also from auditors. Only minor changes were needed to the protocols.

Safety news briefs

Key prevention how-to — Preventing common forestry injuries is the object of a Council campaign being launched in early July. Information on avoiding the human and business costs of injuries will be posted at www.bcforestsafesafe.org.

Looking for industry leaders — Do you know someone who deserves one of two Council annual Leadership in Safety awards to be presented in the fall? The Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award goes to an individual whose long career has involved unwavering commitment to safety and building a lasting culture of safety among forest workers. The Forest Safety MVP of the Year recognizes an individual or group for a notable contribution to safety in their operation or company.

Details and a nomination form that can be submitted online are at www.bcforestsafesafe.org/2010_safety_awards.html.

Safety alerts for you — The Council's May and June monthly alerts focus on safety for truckers at www.bcforestsafesafe.org/AOM_May_2010 and risks in tree planting at www.bcforestsafesafe.org/AOM_June_2010.



Supervisors and a strong safety culture

BY PETER LINEEN, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER



Supervisors are central to a safe start coming back to work after downtime, as noted in the CEO's message starting on Page 1.

Everyday in forestry, so much is on the line. It's vital to workers and the industry that we get more people home safely, for

the truly important things in their lives.

Here are some crucial questions for supervisors to ask themselves, as part of building a strong safety culture.

Talk to your guys — Are you regularly reviewing safety expectations with your crew? How would you demonstrate to someone else that you do this?

Keep your eyes open — Do you consistently observe work areas, crews and individual employees? Things to watch include:

- » The condition of materials, work areas, tools, PPE and other equipment.
- » The correct use of tools and materials and adherence to work practices.

How would you demonstrate to someone else that you do this?

Lead by example — Do you personally set a high safety standard? How? Do you address safety concerns promptly? When talking to workers, do you start and end conversations with the idea of safety?

Other concerns — These issues should also raise questions for supervisors.

Solid start-up planning

CONTINUED FROM P1

Improving markets are good news, but let's all work to see that everyone benefits fully from getting our operations running again. Let's be professional, and certain we are "ready to do business well". This requires a solid, well-thought-out start-up plan that delivers injury-free, positive cash results.



REYNOLD HERTZ, CEO AND ACTING CHAIR

- » New guys or people transferring into your crew: How well do they understand your specific safety expectations?
- » Workers bringing you safety problems: Are you comfortable talking to them and asking exactly what's bothering them?
- » Common injuries or incidents in your operations: Are you aware of where and how they occur? What have you done to follow-up on them?

New business manager



Rob Moonen is the Council's new business manager, developing and leading systems to improve internal services and support forest industry safety initiatives.

His more than 20 years' safety and human resources experience includes posi-

tions as senior advisor of human resources for Catalyst Paper, program coordinator for the injury reduction program at Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta and health and safety specialist for Canada Packers.

Rob holds a BCIT Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety and a Chartered Insurance Professional designation, and is certified by the Ken Blanshard Companies as an instructor in leading change. He has completed numerous continuing education programs, including accommodating workplace disabilities, situational leadership, labour law and building high-performing teams.

Funding may run out

Forestry workers and employers shouldn't delay checking government programs that can help pay for Council safety training. Some programs end or may run out of money in the fall.

Descriptions of government funding programs, and links to them, are at www.bcforestsafe.org/files/files/Training_Funding_FINAL_Dec7-09.pdf.

Information on Council training is at www.bcforest-safe.org/training.html.

