

Training | Forest Safety Council offers courses

by STEVE MUELLER and BILL BOLTON

Everyone knows timber harvesting is a hazardous job, but how many people see worker supervision as a key factor in reducing the risks?

We know at least 1,176 people who do, all experienced certified B.C. fallers. Their answers to a BC Forest Safety Council survey ranked supervisor train-

ing as a top safety need. Now the council is responding to them by offering a new basic supervisor training program that pays off for everyone from employers and forest workers to supervisors themselves.

The training consists of two days of classroom instruction and another day of applying those lessons in the bush. Anyone can take the basic course, which is the prerequisite for a two-day specialized faller training program. Later this year, the BC Forest Safety Council plans to give those completing both courses the opportunity to become certified faller supervisors.

By the end of 2008, the council hopes to be running other specialized training that—with the basic course—leads to certification of supervisors in mechanized harvesting, log hauling, silviculture and other specialties.

All this builds on two simple facts: supervisors are legally obligated to ensure their workers' safety and to know the Workers' Compensation Act and the regulations covering the work being supervised. Given the human and financial costs of workplace injuries, the council sees this as a moral obligation and a business imperative.

Pretty much everything a supervisor needs to know is spelled out in Work-SafeBC's regulations; they're the guts of the council's supervisor training.

That emphasis on the regulations in

the training surprises some people, but only until they see how it lets them make the safety laws work for them, not the other way around.

Supervisors are taught to pinpoint regulations relating specifically to their work. Think of it as translating regulatory theory into real-world practice.

For instance, the basic course shows any forest supervisor—in practical terms—how to satisfy the requirement to make regular inspections "of all workplaces, including buildings, structures, grounds, excavations, tools, equipment, machinery, and work methods and practices, at intervals that will prevent the development of unsafe working conditions."

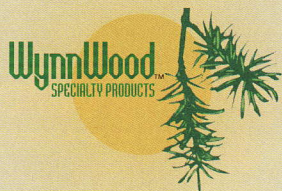
Here's an example for faller supervisors. You face the requirement of "ensuring the faller's well-being at least every 30 minutes," and the course gives you practical ways of conducting individual man-checks across often widely spread falling sites.

This is useful, potentially life-saving information. It will make the working woods a safer, healthier place to earn a living.

Steve Mueller is the director and Bill Bolton the senior advisor of worker development for the BC Forest Safety Council. For information on their work, the SAFE Companies program and other council initiatives, see www.bcforestsafe.org.

KB

Wynndel Box & Lumber



Proudly Producing
Wynnwood Specialty
Products Right Here
in the Kootenays



Ask for Wynnwood Specialty Products at your local retail building supplier

- Factory Primed Facia Products
- Factory Primed and Prefinished Siding
- ESLP S4S Boards (1x4 thru 1x12)
- Flooring—Pine and Fir
- Cedar Select R.E.D.
- Cedar 7/8 Boards
- Pattern Stock (All Species)

for over 90 years



WYNDEL
BOX AND LUMBER

Visit us at: www.wyndellumber.com
wynsales@uniserve.com • 250-866-5266

Get home safe



SAFETY IS VITAL to the people who work in British Columbia's forest sector. Everyone wants to get home safe at the end of the day.

The BC Forest Safety Council is working with silviculture employers and workers to improve safety programs and performance. We are:

- » Training workers and companies to recognize and manage the hazards of working in the forest; and
- » Focusing on the safe transportation of people and products to and from worksites

The SAFE Companies program is now underway. Companies can register, have their safety programs audited, get certified and receive rebates on their WCB payments.

Call now for information about how you or your company can participate in training and SAFE Companies activities.

www.bcforestsafe.org
1.888.632.0211



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable