

# Forest Safety news

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## Falling safety program review to ensure viability



TRAINING FALLERS NEAR SOINTULA ON VANCOUVER ISLAND HOW TO SPRINGBOARD SAFELY: (L TO R) DOUG HANSEN FROM HANSEN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT LTD.; KERBY GOOD FROM GITANYOW FIRST NATION; AND DALE KAVANAUGH, A SELF-EMPLOYED FALLER FROM TROUT LAKE NEAR REVELSTOKE.

Stakeholders agree — the falling safety program has made a positive difference.

Everyone from prime contractors and industry representatives to licensees, falling supervisors and, most importantly, fallers themselves see value in the program. The program has resulted in thousands of trained and certified fallers and falling supervisors and many resources, such as on-line training videos.

It has also provided numerous invaluable services, including at the Ted Gramlich Inquest and — one of its most important contributions — taking the lead on this year's Coroners' Death Review panel. The panel investigated three fallers' deaths in 2010-11, and resulted in far-ranging improvements, including new ways to do danger tree blasting. (See training videos, page 4.)

Now a comprehensive review of the falling safety program is underway. Slated for completion by spring 2012, Council staff will look at a variety of options for the future of the falling program.

"We'll be looking at everything from sustainable funding to the structure of the TAC [technical advisory committee] to make sure this valuable program can continue to make good progress," says Steve Chaplin, Director of Training & Program Development.

[SEE VALUE OF FALLING SAFETY PROGRAM, P4](#) >

### CEO's message

## Our 2012 goal: zero fatalities and drive down the injury rate



PETER LINEEN

With 2012 shortly upon us, I want to express my appreciation to everyone reading this, and to the many people who have contributed to improving the safety record in the forest industry. Throughout 2011, industry has continued to hold the ground on good reduction in injury rates achieved in 2009 and 2010. The challenges are

still many, but there has been a marked improvement in injury rates since 2007.

While we don't yet have year-end figures for 2011, we do know that the general injury rate in the forestry sector has improved by 32 percent during the last five-year

[SEE DRIVING DOWN THE INJURY RATE, P2](#) >

*Wishing you  
a joyous holiday season  
and a healthy, prosperous  
New Year*

The staff and board of the  
BC Forest Safety Council



**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@bcforestsafecouncil.org](mailto:news@bcforestsafecouncil.org)

### Driving down the injury rate

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#### Fatality alert

## Four more industry deaths this fall

This alert is a summary of four forestry-related fatalities that have occurred since September 2011. The latest, which happened November 14 in the Northern Vancouver Island area, marks the eighth fatality the forest industry has seen to date this year.

We recommend that all supervisors and workers take the time to review the following summaries, and have a conversation about safe work practices and procedures in their operations.

Further information on risk-based assessments can be found at <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/RADAR>.

#### September 2011 – Fraser Valley area

A silviculture worker was manually falling a deciduous tree about one foot in diameter. While the tree was being felled, it split up the stem, fatally striking the worker.

#### October 2011 – Cariboo-Chilcotin / Lillooet area

A certified faller was standing beside a front-end loader being used to directionally control the fall of two trees when the loader became unstable and flipped onto its side. The worker was struck by the machine and fatally crushed upon impact.

#### October 2011 – Sunshine Coast/Howe Sound area

A worker was observed working on a log boom, preparing the boom for transport. Sometime later a co-worker noticed the worker's boom boat at the boom, but could not see the worker. An extensive search was conducted, however, the worker was not found. The worker is missing and presumed drowned.

#### November 2011 – Northern Vancouver Island area

Near the end of the workday, a crew of forestry workers was gathered in a marshalling yard preparing to return to town. While moving a crew vehicle, a worker was fatally struck.

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These summaries reflect current information known at the time and may not accurately represent all accounts of the incidents. Investigations into these incidents are still at an early stage, so no final determinations have yet been made as to the causes. As more details are made available, the Council will provide additional resources and information.

period. This has translated into fewer injuries, fewer people losing their lives and a healthy improvement in basic WorkSafeBC insurance rates for most forest industry sectors.

Although the general injury rate has flattened, the number of fatalities in forestry operations has regrettably increased from six fatalities in 2010 to eight as of mid-December. Any death is unacceptable.

The challenge in the coming year is to reduce industry fatalities to zero and continue driving down the injury rate. That will take a continued focus on moment-to-moment decision making, good coaching on recognizing hazards, and planning that identifies risks and eliminates hazards before workers have to wrestle with them at the worksite level.

Also, I see further work that needs to be done by Council in a few key areas — streamlining the faller certification system; better training for supervisors; good information and training for workers on basic hazards and controls; a continued focus on road and driver safety; and specific support to industry on very basic injury risks, such as slips and falls and repetitive strain-type injuries. We'll also continue to review the SAFE Companies program for better efficiencies.

In 2005, the industry collectively rallied around the unacceptable number of fatalities of more than 45 and made a concerted effort to drive improvements. We have made progress, but we have a ways to go. Early in 2012, I'll be asking industry leaders for their views and priorities over the next 24 months to ensure that we maintain momentum and continue to support the industry.

In closing, I wish you and your families all the best during the holiday season, and a safe and healthy 2012.



PETER LINEEN, CEO

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**9th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum:**  
*2020 North — A Clear Vision for the Next Decade*  
January 11–12, 2012, Prince George Civic Centre

**69th Annual Truck Loggers Association Conference & Trade Show:**

*Pathways to a Sustainable Industry*

January 18–20, 2012, Victoria Conference Centre & Fairmount Empress Hotel



### Training course fees increase in 2012

After six years of virtually no increases, the fees charged for all training courses sponsored by the Forest Safety Council will rise as of January 2012.

“With few exceptions, we’ve held the line on course fees since the Council was formed in 2005,” says Director of Training & Program Development, Steve Chaplin.

“As a not-for-profit organization, the Council operates on a cost-recovery basis and generally doesn’t provide subsidies. However, given the tough times in the industry over the past few years, we chose not to charge the full overhead and administrative costs related to training. But now we need to recover all costs on the courses we deliver.”

To reduce the impact to industry, the full costs will be phased in over three years.

Since the goal is to deliver high quality courses that are cost effective, the Council will continue to look at ways of reducing overhead and streamlining processes.

For instance, in 2012 staff will be reviewing the new faller training model regarding the cost and how it’s delivered.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Chaplin at 1-877-741-1060.

### Webinar gets an “avalanche” of response

Good ideas can generate good problems — and that’s exactly what happened when Council offered its first free online webinar in November. The topic was *Working Safely in Avalanche Country*, and by all indications there’s great interest in both the subject matter and in webinars.

“The avalanche webinar was our guinea pig, and we had such an overwhelming response we added four additional sessions to our initial offering,” says Laura Maguire, Manager of Training & Program Development.

Attendees ranged from field workers and safety coordinators to company owners and equipment operators.

Taught by Carole Savage, a Registered Professional Forester and active member of the Canadian Avalanche Association, the webinar covered what to look out for when working in avalanche terrain, what equipment you need and tips for staying safe in the woods during winter. WorkSafeBC’s Bruce Clarke was also on hand to address regulatory changes and help contractors better understand how to meet the regulation this winter.

“Carole’s presentation was really informative — it showed pictures of avalanche zones across the province, which was useful since we had participants from Terrace to Cranbrook at the online training,” says Maguire. “It’s simple to log on and was easy to follow along and ask questions using the webinar format.”

SEE AVALANCHE WEBINAR P5 >

## Upcoming safety training for forestry workers

Course	Location	Dates	Contact
Internal Auditor	Prince George (Days Inn downtown)	January 16–18	For more information, contact Gary Banys or Kelly Milholm toll-free at 1-877-741-1060.  Enrollment forms and other details regarding scheduled courses can also be found on our website training calendar by clicking here.
Small Employer OHS Training (SE OHS)	Nanaimo (Days Inn Nanaimo Harbourview)	January 26–27	
Small Employer OHS Training (SE OHS)	Prince George (Days Inn downtown)	January 26–27	
Basic Incident Investigation	Nanaimo (Days Inn Nanaimo Harbourview)	January 28	
Basic Incident Investigation	Prince George (Days Inn downtown)	January 28	
Small Employer OHS Training (SE OHS)	Williams Lake	February 2–3	



## Value of falling safety program

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“We’ve got a great foundation of courses to keep fallers safe, but we need stability to carry it forward.”

### SIX YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Due to horrific faller fatalities and serious injuries, regulations around faller certification first came into effect in 1998. Faller certification itself didn’t begin until 2003 and was first administered by WorkSafeBC. Then in 2005, the program was taken over by Council, where it has developed into an effective and comprehensive system.

“We’ve built really good programs in order to keep fallers safe. That’s the number one thing we’ve focussed on — faller safety,” says Bill Bolton, Falling Safety Program Manager.

The program has established standards and training in 10 different skill sets — from falling to faller supervision and faller blasting, as well as basic chainsaw operation. Three other skills sets — slasher/spacer, tree topping, and single stem harvesting — have also been developed but not implemented.

In 2011 alone, activities have included revising falling supervisor training; developing falling supervisor certification, a hazard matrix for harvesting layout and planning, and a performance tracking system; and doing a study on dangerous tree blasting. The latter resulted in a new training video, one of four developed so far. **(See resources, below.)** As well, the falling supervisor courses saw twice the anticipated enrollment.

The faller program also provides safety advocacy and remedial training; issues falling incidents alerts; and assists in serious incident investigations.

But the vital core of the program remains training and certification, and the effects it has on safety and more.

“We know the falling program keeps people safe because we’ve trained thousands and we haven’t had a single incident,” says Bolton. “Plus we hear back from prime contractors that the program has really improved workmanship. It gives fallers even more pride in what they do. That’s good for companies and it keeps fallers safer, too.”

**Part of the upcoming review process will be to gather input from stakeholders on how the faller safety program has improved results and performance. We need your feedback in this regard, so please contact Allison Thompson, Program Coordinator, at [thompson@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:thompson@bcforestsafesafe.org).**

## FALLING SAFETY RESOURCES

### Falling supervisor training information:

<http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/training/supervisors/bullbuckers.html>

### Click on the following links for training videos:

#### New faller training

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5t4bP10dUs>

#### BC faller training standard

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IVJ8gTST5U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IVJ8gTST5U)

#### **NEW** Dangerous tree blasting

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=870RNYwyULI>

#### **NEW** Falling supervisor training and certification

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZPp4SHutII>

## NEXT FALLER SAFETY TRAINING

The BC Forest Safety Council, in partnership with the College of the Rockies, is offering the next faller safety training program January 30, 2012, in Chilliwack/Abbotsford. For more details, click [here](#), or contact Allison Thompson, Program Coordinator, at [thompson@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:thompson@bcforestsafesafe.org).

**For more details on other upcoming training courses, see page 3.**

## FALLING PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Totals, from 2005 to November 2011)

Fallers certified: .....	4,000
Basic chainsaw operators trained: .....	450
New fallers trained: .....	150
Basic forest supervisors trained: .....	1,400
Falling supervisor trained: .....	600
Dangerous tree blasting for fallers attendees: ..	50
Faller assessors trained: .....	90
Falling supervisors certified: .....	20
Qualified supervisor trainers developed: .....	40



## Review will see expanded committees

When it comes to developing the best possible programs for tackling injuries and fatalities in the forest industry, technical advisory committees (TACs) are among the key “tools” Council has.

That’s why a review of all TACs is underway with a view to expanding the committees in breadth and numbers.

“Our Technical Advisory Committees are a great way to engage with the industry and get direct, practical information,” says Director of Training & Program Development, Steve Chaplain. “The direct input we get from industry representatives is invaluable — it helps us focus on key injury areas and build the right programs, certification and training. So we want to make sure the committees are covering all the bases.”

The review, which will be completed by spring 2012, will look at all aspects of TACs and their relationship to the Council’s goals, including the membership and structure of existing ones — as well as what types of TACs are needed that don’t exist now.

For instance, Council is looking at creating a single committee combining Harvesting and Safe Companies TACs since many issues are relevant to both. Also, staff members are looking at facilitating the Silviculture TAC from the Western Silvicultural Contractors’ Association.

Council will fund and organize all future TACs and be responsible for:

- » Setting up and hosting meetings, including developing agendas and providing meeting sites and meals as required
- » Soliciting input and feedback for meeting content
- » Working with the committee on industry-related issues and injury prevention strategies
- » Following up as required on prevention programs, issues and action items.

Details regarding the TAC review outcomes will be provided as soon as they are available in the spring.

## Avalanche webinar

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Since some of the information is proprietary, the webinar can’t be posted online, but click here for support resources.

Given the success of this first online session, more webinars are planned for the future, and, like the one on avalanche safety, information will be geared to a general audience.

“The possibilities are endless,” says Maguire.

For more info on upcoming webinars, check out the Council’s training calendar by clicking here.



### Did you miss your audit date?

It’s not too late if you want your COR rebate!

Starting in 2011, we required all SAFE Companies to complete their annual audit on or before their anniversary date. Companies that miss their date will have their certification removed. This procedural change was designed to streamline our administrative process and control costs.

If you have missed your audit date, it’s not too late. Simply submit a recertification audit.

If you have any questions, please contact a safety advisor at 1-877-741-1060.

## Welcome new safety advisors

The Council extends a warm welcome to two new safety advisors, Terry Chow and Mike Sexton.

Mike and Terry will be supporting all aspects of the Certificate of Recognition (COR) and SAFE Companies programs with the goal of reducing injuries and fatalities in the workplace.

Mike comes to the Council from Western Forest Products in Port Alice, where he was the Quatsino Dry Land Sort Supervisor. Prior to that he was General Foreman at the Jeune Landing Timberlands Operation.

Terry is a Registered Professional Forester and professional agrologist with 18 years of forest industry experience on BC’s coast and in the Interior. He previously worked with the Forest Practices and Investment Branch, as well as with Tembec and Crestbrook Forest Industries.



NEW SAFETY ADVISORS: MIKE SEXTON AND TERRY CHOW.

