

Forest Safety news

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2011 Safety Award winners



DAVID WHITWELL [SECOND FROM LEFT], OPERATIONS MANAGER, ACCEPTED THIS YEAR'S FOREST SAFETY MVP OF THE YEAR AWARD ON BEHALF OF WESTLINE HARVESTING LTD. FROM [L TO R]: DONNA WILSON, VICE-PRESIDENT, INDUSTRY SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY, WORKSAFEBC; DAVID WHITWELL; HONOURABLE STEVE THOMSON, MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS; PETER LINEEN, CEO, BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL. SEE FULL STORY PAGE 4.

Putting safety first key to 2012 work plan

Continuing to support industry to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries as well as making programs more efficient and effective are key to Council's 2012-14 Work Plan.

"As productivity improves and the economy strengthens, we'll continue to build on the culture shift that safe operations are also more efficient, more in control, and more profitable," says Council CEO Peter Lineen.

"So in 2012 we'll continue focusing on growing a strong safety culture across all segments of the industry and supporting industry to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries. A safety focus is not only good for workers and their families — it's good for business."

[SEE 2012 WORKPLAN TARGETS HIGH INCIDENTS, P6](#) >

Lineen new CEO

With a deep background in occupational health and safety — and a passion for it as well — the former COO of the BC Forest Safety Council, Peter Lineen, has been appointed as its new CEO after an extensive search.

"Peter's knowledge of the industry and his extensive health and safety experience are well-matched with our requirements and will ensure momentum continues in industry's drive to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities," says Reynold Hert, who has been acting as Council CEO and Chair. He will remain Chair of the Board of Directors into 2013.

Lineen has 25 years of experience in the occupational health and safety field with a focus on forestry, wood products manufacturing, and oil and gas across Canada and the US. He is also a Canadian Registered Safety Professional with the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, and has served as the Chair of its Board.

CEO's message

Continued approach focuses on practicality



PETER LINEEN

I am honoured to accept the role of CEO with the BC Forest Safety Council and would also like to thank former CEO Reynold Hert for his leadership, vision and commitment in guiding the organization and the forest industry forward on the path to zero fatalities and serious incidents.

The overall reduction in fatality and injury rates in the harvesting sector has been positive and has generally outstripped most heavy industry sectors in BC. At one time, harvesting was second only to commercial fishing as the most dangerous sector. Now other sectors are occupying that place.

Over the past two years, Council has responded to requests for simplicity in systems, more field presence, and practical frontline support to solve basic safety

[SEE FOCUS ON PRACTICALITY, P5](#) >



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

No new fees for primary companies in 2012

There's good news for primary forestry companies in 2012 — no annual fee will be charged for SAFE companies certification renewal.

"In light of the economic challenges still facing the forest industry, Council wants to relieve any unnecessary financial burdens for SAFE companies," says Rob Moonen, SAFE Companies Director.

Along the same vein of fairness, a new fee has been added for naturally aligned SAFE Companies not currently contributing to the Council through WorkSafeBC assessment fees.

Starting January 1, 2012, SAFE Certified companies that do not contribute financially to support the Council through WorkSafeBC assessment payments will be required to pay an annual administrative fee based on one-third of the present SAFE Companies registration fees (see fees, next column).

SAFE Certified companies that have multiple operations where one division is contributing to Council will not be charged the annual fee. For example, a small road construction company that does both logging road construction and highway construction and has separate WorkSafeBC classifications would not pay the annual fee.

If your company does NOT have one of the following WorkSafeBC classifications, you will be required to pay an annual fee starting in 2012:

RATE GROUP	CLASSIFICATION UNIT	DESCRIPTION
GL	703002	Brushing and weeding or tree thinning or spacing
DR	703003	Cable or hi-lead logging
DR	703004	Dry land sort
GL	703005	Forest fire fighting
DR	703006	Ground skidding, horse logging, or log loading
DR	703008	Integrated forest management
DR	703009	Log booming or marine log salvage
DR	703011	Log processing
DR	703012	Logging road construction or maintenance

DR	703013	Manual tree falling and bucking
DR	703014	Mechanized tree falling
DR	703015	Shake block cutting
FW	703016	Tree planting and cone picking
DR	703019	Helicopter logging
DI	732044	Log hauling

"This fee is an effort to level the playing field," says Moonen. The annual fee will impact about 950 SAFE Certified companies as follows:

- » Individual Owner Operator (IOO) \$42
- » Independent Small Employer (ISEBASE) \$100
- » Small Employer (SEBASE) \$200
- » Large Employer (BASE) \$400

If the fee applies to your company, you will be invoiced by Council for 2012.



New requirements for COR rebates

Beginning January 1, 2012, any SAFE Companies who want to be eligible for a COR rebate have new auditor requirements that have been established by WorkSafeBC and the COR program.

The requirements mean that auditors will need to complete refresher training. For small companies (ISEBASE and SEBASE) your internal auditor, which could be "you," will need to take one day of training. For Individual Owner Operators (IOO), the requirement will be four hours training. Additionally, auditors will need to conduct a minimum of two audits within their three-year certification cycle.

"According to the COR guidelines, auditors must maintain the quality and currency of their skill set and knowledge base," says Rob Moonen, SAFE Companies Director. "Only audits submitted by qualified auditors will be eligible for COR incentives."

Check the Council website for updates.





“Human factors” impact all drivers’ performance

Safety leaders have recently been looking at “human factors” — how each individual’s skills, perspectives, attitude and frame of mind influence their decisions, actions and performance in the workplace.

“When it comes to driving, whether it’s forestry-related vehicles such as log trucks or crew transport vehicles, statistics show drivers are no exception to the impacts of human factors,” says Rick Walters, Director of Transportation Safety for the Council.

Walters explains that driver error is the cause of 80 to 90 percent of crashes. “Primarily, it’s not the road, the load, the vehicle, or even performance errors such as lack of driving skills, or drug/alcohol use that results in crashes,” he says. “It’s recognition errors, like failing to recognize a hazardous condition, and decision errors, such as making the wrong decision about what to do in a particular situation.”

“Study after study show that decisions made and behaviours applied by all drivers are the single most important factors in determining driving outcomes,” says Walters. “It’s important for all of us to think about why these errors occur, and question the systems within which we expect drivers to perform their jobs.”

A comprehensive 2011 study by the Canadian Council of Motor Transportation Administrators identifies three primary factors in driver error crashes:

- » **FATIGUE:** New research defines various stages of fatigue (boredom, drowsiness, micro-sleep, and flat out falling asleep), how employers and drivers can recognize it, and what they can do to manage it.
- » **DISTRACTIONS:** Cell phones, cab clutter, flashing lights, two-way radios, even last night’s squabble can all divert a driver’s focus, and reduce his or her ability to respond quickly and appropriately to changes.
- » **RISKY DRIVING:** Decision errors are related most closely with risky driving behaviours such as speeding, following too closely, or choosing not to chain up when you should. Poor hazard perception skills — not realizing the action or condition is hazardous, or under-estimating the magnitude of the hazard — also contribute to risky driving. But more often, studies indicate that drivers are fully cognizant that a given practice is risky, but undertake it anyway, sometimes as a standard practice.

Do people have identifiable attributes that make them more or less likely to undertake risky driving behaviours? Can this help in the hiring process? Can training change attitudes? Is decreasing tolerance of risky driving behaviours a symptom of a maturing safety culture?

Watch *Rumblings* and *Forest Safety News* in coming months as we look at practical knowledge on these topics.

New Council members welcome to apply

More openness and representation from all aspects of the forest industry — that’s what was set in motion with last year’s change in Council’s governance policy, which broadened the criteria for membership.

Essentially, anyone representing a company or organization involved in the forest industry that financially contributes to a WorkSafeBC classification unit that supports the Council can apply to become a member. This includes firms, corporations, government agencies, societies, labour unions, or simply an individual involved in providing services to BC’s forest industry.

However, each company or organization can have only one Council member.

CEO Peter Lineen explains that Council membership is an opportunity for industry representatives to have their voice heard and to get involved by contributing to the direction of Council and the health and safety culture of the forest industry.

“The broader our representation is, the stronger our industry’s safety results will be,” says Lineen. To access the membership application form on the Council’s website, click here.



Safety leadership anchors Island Safety Conference

Innovation and commitment that show in practical ways are the hallmarks of this year's leadership award winners

Given the theme of this year's Vancouver Island Safety Conference and Trade Show — the cycle of leadership in safety: where do you fit it? what's your role? — it was fitting that the winners of the Council's annual Safety Leadership Awards were recognized there.

Approximately 300 people attended the sixth annual event, held in Nanaimo October 1, including the winners of the Council's Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement and the Forest Safety MVP of the Year awards presented by Minister of Forests, Steve Thomson.

Sig Kemmler, Co-Founder, President and General Manager of Alternative Forest Operations Ltd. (AFO) in Duncan received this year's Cary White Memorial Award, which recognizes a life-long commitment to safety.

With 27 years of tree falling experience, Kemmler co-founded AFO to provide conventional and highly specialized forestry services such as single stem harvesting, where workers climb trees with a chain saw and climbing gear and, in some cases, swing from tree to tree without touching the ground.

Kemmler is known for the safety leadership and initiative he shows in developing safety policies and standards and practices that are immediately recognized by workers and visitors alike as being at the forefront of his company's everyday operations.

Westline Harvesting Ltd. was this year's winner of the Forest Safety MVP of the Year award, which recognizes an individual or group for a notable contribution to safety with marked results. The company, along with Clusko Logging Enterprises Ltd., are two innovative stump-to-dump timber harvesting companies owned by longtime Williams Lake residents, Arnold and Imke Bremner. Both companies have been SAFE certified since 2007.

Known for its fleet of bright red pick-ups and logging trucks, Westline Harvesting has a reputation for its

SEE SAFETY CONFERENCE EXPLORES BUSINESS SUCCESS, P7 >



SIG KEMMLER (SECOND FROM LEFT), PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER, ALTERNATIVE FOREST OPERATIONS LTD., RECEIVED THIS YEAR'S CARY WHITE MEMORIAL AWARD. FROM [L TO R] DONNA WILSON, VICE-PRESIDENT, INDUSTRY SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY WORKSAFEBC; HONOURABLE STEVE THOMSON, MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS; PETER LINEEN, CEO, BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL

Is your company still on the SAFE list?

Being a SAFE Certified company is highly regarded in BC's forest industry.

"It adds to your company's reputation and credibility in business, just like being part of any professional organization or association," says SAFE Companies Director, Rob Moonen. "But in this case it means your company meets accepted industry standards for one of the most important aspects of any business — safety."

On the Council website anyone can access a list of all companies that are currently SAFE Certified and those whose audit reviews are underway.

As of March 31, 2012, the list of companies registered for certification will no longer be published so that the focus is on SAFE Certified companies.

Presently, approximately 2,500 companies on the registered list have not achieved SAFE certification for a variety of reasons. Many of the companies on the list date back to 2006, and some are no longer in business. Others may have decided not to pursue SAFE certification.

"In the early stages of launching the SAFE companies program, being registered was seen as a significant step forward. With such a positive response from the sector, SAFE certification is now the minimum requirement for meeting accepted industry standards, which resulted in our decision to eliminate the registered list," says Moonen.

SEE STILL ON THE SAFE LIST? P7 >



Focus on practicality

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New version, new tools for steep slope package

A new version of the Steep Slope Resource Package, is now available [here](#) on the Council website.

"This updated draft includes wording changes and clarification that were developed with input from the forest industry and requested by WorkSafeBC," says Rick Walters, Director of Transportation Safety for the Council.

SEE STAFF HELP P7 >

Help shape the OHS regulation

Amendments proposed for WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Regulation in 2012 are now available for review, and your input is welcomed.

Before the proposed amendments are taken to a public hearing in May–June 2012, stakeholders are invited to comment on them. A consultation session for in-person feedback was held in October, but you can provide your written feedback until November 25.

The proposed amendments as well as the guidelines for your written submission are posted here on WorkSafeBC's web site. Click [here](#) for Council's overview of the proposed changes to the regulations.

questions. In 2012 and beyond, I see a continuation of this approach, and more focus on programs that make sense for our industry: flexible audit/certification systems; training concentrated on end users' needs; safety pre-qualification requirements that meet everyone's needs; and greater ownership by industry in Council's direction and the programs and services we offer.

My focus will also be to ensure we deliver cost-effective services that support injury reduction across the industry. This means helping those who are struggling, and challenging those in good shape to take a leadership role.

Personally, I have been involved in too many situations involving workplace fatalities. These tragic events have cemented my convictions on what needs to be in place — at the minimum — in all work settings, big and small. I see Council using these five points to guide our work in supporting industry with safety:

- » **Leadership:** What we do matters more than what we say.
- » **Engagement:** People on the frontline really understand the complications and solutions. They need to be engaged in safety.
- » **Basics:** Laws and regulations "get you in the park." Training, information, inspection and practices "get you in the game."
- » **Focus on the greatest potential:** People usually have too many priorities in any work effort. It's the same in safety. Pick two or three issues to work on and then move on to the next.
- » **Recognize the risks:** Good hazard recognition is the key to making good decisions and choices on the frontline.

I have worked in the industry for a number of years in BC as well as across Canada and the US, and know there are great people at every level passionately involved in making this industry the safest anywhere. That challenge is well within our grasp.

I look forward to your thoughts on what is most pressing and what can be done to achieve zero fatalities and serious incidents.

PETER LINEEN, CEO



Work plan targets high incidents

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The new plan will integrate “human factors” principles and content into services offered (see Transportation Safety story, page 3), as well as an injury prevention focus to reduce injuries in the highest incident occupations (fallers, truckers and silviculture workers) and the highest incident categories (falls, struck-bys, and strains and sprains).

Here are a few highlights:

SAFE companies focus: Be efficient and effective

The SAFE companies program will continue to focus on improving the audit process to increase results, practicality and efficiencies by:

- » Improving and enhancing guidelines for obtaining and maintaining SAFE certification
- » Revising training for companies with existing safety programs
- » Enhancing safety advocate services
- » Conducting verification audits
- » Consulting with stakeholders on SAFE companies and its linkage with the COR program.

Improving training to maximize safety outcomes

Besides offering a full range of courses in 2012, the Council will focus on improving training to maximize safety outcomes by:

- » Continuing development in safety leadership and supervision training, including coastal falling supervisor certification, and “point in time” hazard recognition and control training
- » Developing a stable footing for the long-term success of BC’s falling safety program
- » Updating forest industry light truck resource road training and forest industry ATV training.

Safe transportation of products and people

Council will continue to focus on transportation safety programs, specifically log truck driving safety and light vehicle driving, by:

- » Enhancing the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) program
- » Conducting a risk hazard awareness campaign for drivers; and a needs assessment of marine and air

- » transportation safety information requirements
- » Launching the driver wellness program, “Fit to Drive”
- » Supporting Road User Groups by priority area.

A big step forward in faller safety

In 2012, the primary focus to reduce faller injuries and fatalities will be on quality assurance requirements; stakeholder involvement and support; and ongoing coordination with SAFE companies for faller requirements. This will occur through:

- » One-on-one meetings with industry senior leaders
- » In-depth injury prevention packages, safety alerts and information for fallers and supervisors
- » A cost benefit study on tree falling operations in high hazard areas
- » Implementing a faller performance tracking system, and the revised Falling Supervisor course and certification.

Strengthening connections with industry and stakeholders

The Council will continue to work with industry partners on the effective delivery of research, injury prevention and training programs, by initiatives such as setting up industry-driven technical advisory committees for higher risk occupations. Other planned outreach activities include one-on-one meetings with industry senior leaders, town hall meetings, and implementation of a comprehensive communications strategy.

New Council resources

Council 2010-11 Progress Report: Industry has reason to be proud of its results in forest safety, but there is risk in assuming the big problem is solved.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL REPORT](#)

Ombudsmen Progress Report 2010-11: As the forest industry continues to emerge from the economic downturn of 2008-09, it has to adapt to significant changes in its operating environment, such as an emerging and expanding bioenergy sector, and new skills and training requirements. Safety, too, will have to keep pace with this changing environment.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL REPORT](#)

Ombudsman Review of Failures Leading to Khaira Incident: This report examines and raises issues about the safety of workers at silviculture camps in BC.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL REPORT](#)



Still on the SAFE list?

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Those companies that registered before September 1, 2011 and have not pursued SAFE certification are being provided with an opportunity to achieve SAFE certification by March 31, 2012.

More than 2,700 companies in BC are SAFE Certified. To check and see if your company name — or that of that of a company you want to hire — is on the list, click [here](#).

Safety conference explores business success

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safety-first approach, which is a habit rather than a forced behavior. Through their proactive approach and clear focus on safe behavior, Westline achieved a Recordable Incident Rate of 0 for 2011.

In addition to the safety award presentations, the conference addressed how woodlands and wood products manufacturing operations can improve their business success by reducing health and safety risks. Highlights included a keynote address by Minister of Forests, Steve Thomson, as well as comments by injured young worker representative, Michael Lovett.

Staff help available

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“Given the resulting good work, users should expect that WorkSafeBC officers inspecting steep slope mechanical harvesting workplaces and seeing effective application of the steep slope assessment and practices, will find those processes acceptable.”

As well, the Council has developed an electronic presentation package for SAFE companies to inform their crews and contractors. To obtain a copy, or arrange a presentation by a Council staff member, phone Rick Walters, Director of Transportation Safety, at 1-877-324-1212, or email walters@bcforestsafe.org.

Maritime/forestry companies now need only one audit

Companies working in both maritime and forestry industries are now able to complete one safety certification audit annually — instead of two — to satisfy both sectors.

A reciprocity agreement between the BC Maritime Employers Association and the BC Forest Safety Council — the first such agreement between certifying partners in BC — means that large companies involved in activities such as booming, barging and towing can simply add elements from BASE audits to their maritime employers audit to be eligible for SAFE certification.

In most cases, only five or six questions will need to be added from the SAFE Companies audit and the technical audit modules for high-risk activities, so additional costs will be incremental.

While the agreement affects fewer than 20 companies, it saves them administrative time and resources and provides an additional benefit.

“This results in SAFE certification, which some companies require from all their contractors. So it may give these tug or barge companies the ability to bid on jobs they wouldn’t otherwise be able to,” says Martin Ridgway, Senior Safety Advisor.

In the future, the Council will pursue similar reciprocity agreements with certifying parties in other industry sectors.

Congratulations to maritime companies

Congratulations to Jones Marine Services Ltd. of Chemainus and Pacific Cachalot Ltd. of Campbell River for receiving a second Certificate of Recognition (COR) through reciprocity with the BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA).

“We are very pleased to have a partnership with the BC Forest Safety Council and be able to recognize the hard work of those employers who operate in both industries,” says Terry Bertram, Manager of Safety Systems at the BCMEA.

