

Forest Safety news

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MIKAEL JONSSON, WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S CARY WHITE MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Safety leaders honoured at Vancouver Island Safety Conference

Forestry workers displaying outstanding achievements in safety were recognized with the Forest Safety Council's annual Safety Leadership Awards at the 5th Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference held in Nanaimo in early October.

"Every person or group that was nominated from around the province deserves to be recognized, but ultimately the field was narrowed down to four very worthy recipients," noted Steve

Mueller, who co-presented the awards along with Patrick Bell, Minister of Forests and Range; and Jim McCaskill,

WorkSafeBC Regional Director, Vancouver Island.

This year's Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award went to Mikael Jonsson, Hand Faller and Qualified Supervisor Trainer. The award recognizes a life-long commitment to safety. Jonsson, who does contract faller assessments for Tembec and is a lead trainer with the Council's new faller training program, has displayed that commitment throughout his 30-year career as an injury-free faller and a dedicated faller safety champion respected throughout BC.

Runner-up for the 2010 Carey White award was Ray Harper, Super Snorkel Operator for Western Forest Products' operations in Port Alice. Harper has harnessed his high skill level and positive attitude to work injury-free for 40 years and in training many operators over the years in safety.

SEE SAFETY LEADERS RECOGNIZED, P3 >

CEO's message

Let's finish the safety job



REYNOLD HERT

In the forest industry we are at a key point in our efforts to reduce fatalities and injuries. We have improved the likelihood of a worker going to work and coming home without injury. Since forest worker safety really hit the newspaper headlines in 2005 until the end of 2009, the following changes have taken place:

- » The lost time injury rate in harvesting rate group DR, which is mostly timber harvesting, has dropped by 45 percent, almost twice as fast as the provincial injury rate decrease of 23 percent.
- » The silviculture lost time injury rate (tree planting and brush clearing/thinning) has dropped by 40 percent.
- » The log hauling lost time injury rate for independent trucking companies is lagging with a drop of only 17 percent.

SEE OUR INDUSTRY DESERVES RECOGNITION, P2 >

Remember your 2010 audits

All companies SAFE certified in 2008 or 2009 have a 2010 maintenance audit due by the end of December 2010. If your company falls in this category, a maintenance audit must be submitted to the Council for the time period since your last audit in order to keep your certification current and be eligible for the annual COR rebate.

Maintenance audit submissions are due by the certification anniversary date, but if that date has passed, they must be submitted no later than December 31, 2010. Timely audit submissions help to avoid a bottleneck as about 2,000 audits are expected.

For companies SAFE certified in 2007, your certificate expires in 2010, which means a new certification audit must be conducted to re-certify. For those companies that may have added or changed a WorkSafeBC classification unit, a certification audit is required instead of a maintenance audit.

For more information, contact Martin Ridgeway, Safety Audit Advisor, at 1-877-741-1060 or ridgeway@bcforestsafesafe.org.



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@bcforestsafesafe.org

Incident investigation training rolled out

When an incident occurs, it's critical that the investigation is done properly, not only to comply with WorkSafe BC regulations, but also to prevent a similar incident from happening again.

Feedback gathered from participants taking Council training courses, along with results from SAFE Companies audits, indicated that many smaller companies need guidance in this area, so a Basic Incident Investigation Training course has been developed.

The course, created with input from the forest industry, provides practical knowledge about the incident investigation process so that operators of small companies can lead their own investigations and identify root causes and corresponding effective corrective actions.

The curriculum was developed over the past year, including seven pilot projects that were held across BC. The full course will be rolled out in 2011.

"The initial registration for the pilot courses indicates that there's going to be significant demand for the training with forestry employers," says Steve Mueller the Council's former Director, Forest Worker Development. "Because of the universal nature of the training, non-forestry participants could benefit from it too."

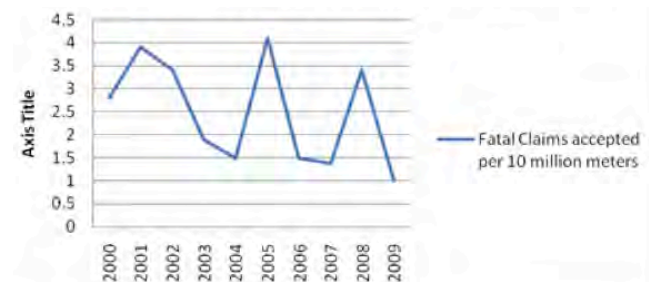
Information on the dates and locations of Basic Incident Investigation Training will be posted on the Council's web site at www.bcforestsafe.org/training.html.

Our industry deserves safety recognition

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- » Over 2,700 operations are SAFE certified.
- » The fatality rate per 10 million cubic metres harvested is on a declining trend for harvesting, silviculture and log hauling combined.

Fatal Claims accepted per 10 million meters harvested (not including Industrial Disease)



The industry deserves some recognition for the results it is achieving. Although we still have higher rates in lost time and serious injuries than the provincial average, the gap is closing, and at a faster rate than some other major industrial sectors such as construction.

Now that we are improving, the challenge is to keep focused on making the permanent change to an industry that embraces the concept of workers going home every day to their family. You have shown you can make a difference, now we need to finish the job.

REYNOLD HERTZ, CEO

Missing your Certificate of Recognition (COR) rebate?

About 1,800 SAFE Certified companies received their 2009 Certificate of Recognition (COR) rebate in September this year from WorkSafeBC. If you were expecting a 2009 COR rebate cheque, but haven't received one yet, it could be because your company was not in good standing.

What does "in good standing" mean? In this

context, it refers to the employer's status with WorkSafeBC and is determined by several things, including correct registration, up-to-date premiums and no administrative penalties.

If you have a question about COR rebates contact Laurel Laturus at 1-877-741-1060 or laturus@bcforestsafe.org.



New guidelines clarify how to stay certified

New guidelines have been created so companies can clearly understand what's required for maintaining their certification.

The policy, which officially starts January 1, 2011, will be communicated by a letter to companies that are already certified or in the registration process and will form part of registration for new SAFE Companies.

"The guidelines were put in place to provide transparency and consistency for companies that aren't maintaining or meeting the intent of SAFE certification," says Steve Chaplin, Director, Safety Services. "This is no different than other associations like those for engineers or foresters that have guidelines to remain in good standing. They give us the ability to suspend or remove a company's certification if they aren't meeting certain standards."

"Our first intent is to work with the company and make a corrective action plan so they're compliant. In the rare cases where companies aren't engaging with us, the guidelines give us a way to go in and take action."

SAFE Companies may have their certification pulled if they fail to annually maintain their certification or submit a deficient audit, or if the company engages in fraud, provides false or misleading information, or brings the reputation or credibility of the SAFE Companies program into disrepute.

As part of the new policy, the Council is also working towards having SAFE Companies submit their maintenance audits on their certification anniversary date, rather than year-end. This will ensure Council staff aren't flooded with audits at year-end and can provide timely service.



DAN NICHOLSON, CO-OWNER OF GEOTERRA INTEGRATED RESOURCE SYSTEMS LTD. (CENTRE), ACCEPTS THE FOREST SAFETY MVP OF THE YEAR AWARD ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND CO-OWNER MARTIN COUSINEAU, WITH PATRICK BELL, MINISTER OF FORESTS AND RANGE (LEFT), AND JIM MCCASKILL, WORKSAFEBC REGIONAL DIRECTOR, VANCOUVER ISLAND

Safety leaders recognized

< CONTINUED FROM SAFETY LEADERS HONOURED, P1

This year's winners of the Forest Safety MVP of the Year award, which recognizes an individual or group for a notable contribution to safety with marked results, were Dan Nicholson and Martin Cousineau, co-owners of Geoterra Integrated Resource Systems Ltd., which has been SAFE certified since 2007.

The two recipients were recognized by their employees for their dedication in making safety improvements, including developing safety and training systems in case of bear attacks since the company operates in remote locations.

The Interfor Coastal Woodlands Safety Task Group was runner-up for this year's MVP award. The group includes contractors Kelly Uzzell, Dale Cox, Bill Clarke, Gord Thompson, Chris Dutcyvich and Mike Hamilton; and Interfor's Andrew Meyer, Ryan Ricard, Mike Ward and Rob Shelley. The group was formed in 2003 to change safety culture and has continually pursued a goal of "no serious injuries or fatalities" through leadership- and consensus-driven processes.

More than 300 people attended the successful conference, which included a trade show with 17 exhibitors. This year's safety theme focused on how woodlands and wood products manufacturing operations can improve their business success by reducing health and safety risks.

Conference highlights included a keynote address by Minister of Forests and Range, Patrick Bell, and an overview of the RADAR safety process.

Safety alerts of the month

The September Safety Alert of the Month, which can be found at www.bcforestsafesafe.org/Aom_September_2010, focuses on transporting crews safely.



The October Alert of the Month, located at www.bcforestsafesafe.org/Aom_October_2010-10-21, highlights steep slope operations.



Updated Council work plan tackles industry needs

Keep developing targeted training, including leadership training for managers and supervisors; broaden technical support; streamline administration and coordinate SAFE Companies with other certifying systems; and boost Council's visibility — these are the key cornerstones of the Council's 2011-13 work plan.

The plan, which was recently approved by the Council's Board of Directors, was based on input from a Board's strategic planning session in June, along with far-ranging input from industry representatives and Council staff.

"The process in creating this plan has been very collaborative and strategic," says CEO Reynold Hert. "This is a forward-looking document that clearly outlines the direction we are headed, which is to be responsive, practical and timely in meeting industry's ever-changing needs."

Key needs that the work plan addresses include:

- » **Training:** An ongoing high priority and need, the Council will focus on developing enhanced training delivery methods, including via the internet and through DVDs and CDs, along with reviewing training programs to ensure they are targeted, accessible, cost effective and of high quality.
- » **Leadership:** As part of training, a clear need has been expressed for a broad set of skills and development for managers and supervisors. This includes knowledge and opportunities for industry managers and leaders to see and sense what excellence in safety could be.
- » **Technical support:** A broad array of support has been requested on industry-wide topics, namely

< SEE COUNCIL WORK PLAN, P6

Transportation safety

Input welcome for log truck driver training

Driving is one of the highest risk activities facing the forest industry. In 2000-08 alone, more than 850 injury claims costing more than \$35 million were made as a result of motor vehicle incidents.

Lack of driver education and training has been cited as a contributing factor to these high incident rates. In response to industry requests, the Forest Safety Council is coordinating the development of a training program for log truck drivers.

"We're working with WorkSafeBC, other safety associations and industry representatives to assemble a Technical Advisory Committee to take this process further," says Chuck Carter, Director of Transportation Safety for the Council. "We know the need is there. Now we want to work with industry to determine what it wants to address the issue."

Consultation will take place this fall, with the committee's recommendations coming in early 2011.

To provide input on log truck driving safety or for more information, contact Chuck Carter in the Prince George office at 1-250-562-8615 or email carter@bcforestsafesafe.org.



Fit to Drive program will aid driver wellness

Did you know that what and when you eat can impact your ability to concentrate and be a good driver? Or that stretching during driving breaks might prevent back problems?

To help log truck drivers better understand factors like these and improve their overall fitness, the Council is co-funding the development of a "Fit to Drive" program tailor-made for log truck drivers.

The program will be developed by Dr. Delia Roberts, who has successfully developed similar fitness programs for tree planters. She will first work with drivers at Weyerhaeuser to do a baseline study.

Completion of the program is expected by fall 2011 and will produce a training presentation and video, a tips booklet and — most importantly — healthier drivers and a lower injury rate.



Steep slope safety moving forward

Improving safety while using equipment on steep slopes has been a recent focus for the industry supported by the Forest Safety Council.

"In many areas of British Columbia, steeper slopes and rougher terrain are increasingly 'the new normal' for licensees and contractors as the timber profile changes, so we need to have reliable safe practices in these settings," says Steve Mueller, who had been working on steep slope initiatives in his previous capacity as the Council's Director, Forest Worker Development.



In July, WorkSafeBC, with assistance from the Forest Safety Council, held two meetings with a wide-ranging group of stakeholders including contractors and licensees to address the issues.

The outcomes were largely positive, with all parties agreeing to work together to clarify these five main areas of concern:

- » Industry's perception of changes to enforcement practices.
- » Acceptable process for steep slope risk assessments and planning operations.
- » Definition of "qualified" persons to develop and implement steep slope plans.
- » What equipment meets regulatory definitions of "designed for use on steep slopes".
- » Ability to plan operations on steep slope blocks and not just small sections of blocks.

Other initiatives to enhance safety while working on steep slopes are also being developed into 2011.

Industry advisory groups with support by Council staff developed a draft steep slope guideline and set of

preferred practices that is available to industry for pilot testing and feedback. Look for the steep slope page on the Council website at www.bcforestsfe.org.

As well, a Steep Slope Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with representatives from contractors, licensees, BC Timber Sales and WorkSafeBC will be formed to review future developments in this area.

Research will be done on equipment steep slope stability characteristics to provide useful baseline data to licensees and contractors planning steep slope operations, and safety advocate services will also be made available to help contractors with planning and conducting steep slope operations.

To contact the Council for safety advocate services, call 1-877-741-1060 or fill out an application at www.bcforestsafe.org/safetyadvocate.

New staff welcomed

Welcome to Kate Montague and Neil Smith, who have recently joined the Council. Kate, who is starting in a new position with the Council's Prince George office as Program Coordinator, Transportation Safety, previously spent five years with Spectrum Resource Group working in a variety of roles including Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator. "Kate brings an enthusiastic focus with a desire to fully support the efforts to develop and deliver high quality programs that support the prevention of fatalities and injuries," says Chuck Carter, Director of Transportation Safety.

Neil Smith, who has more than 25 years of management experience in information technology, including numerous positions with Catalyst Paper, is the Council's new IT Coordinator. "Neil is an excellent fit with the Council as it evolves, as he has real depth and versatility in everything from coordinating IT functions with business strategies, to providing quick, responsive user support," says Rob Moonen, Business Manager for the Council.

These appointments are part of the ongoing restructuring of the Council to better meet needs.



Falling Supervisor program evolving

The Falling Supervisor Training Standard and Certification program continues to evolve, with even more improvements.

After a successful consultation process and pilot project, plus revisions to the initial course program, more than 100 falling supervisors — as well as the Council's own Falling Technical Advisory Committee — have supported the development of falling supervisor training and certification in principle and now look forward to the completed product.

"We are getting more and more buy-in from everyone. As we build it, we are getting agency and industry support," says Bill Bolton, who manages faller programs for the Council. "We are now looking at developing resources such as an on-line training version including video. The certification piece will recognize



FALLING SUPERVISOR/BULLBUCKER JEFF MCKENZIE EVALUATES FALLER IN THE BACKGROUND

those individuals who have demonstrated they meet the minimum requirements of a Qualified Supervisor."

In the ongoing collaborative process to shape the best possible program, another 12 to 16 field assessments will be done this fall, and feedback will be solicited. For more information, contact Bill Bolton at Bolton@bcforestsafe.org.



Council work plan gives clear direction

< CONTINUED FROM P4

transportation road users, driver training, marine regulation interpretation, human factors integration, and steep slope harvesting guidelines/support. A key focus will be follow through on work initiated in 2009 following the Coroner's Death Review Panel on Falling Safety.

- » **Administration:** The Safe Companies audit system will continue to be streamlined and will look at integrating other requirements to minimize audit duplication, such as Environmental Management System, Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement, and labour standards. The Council will also continue to work on reciprocity with other certifying partners as well as better metrics and data on injury trends

and constraints to speed up improvements.

- » **Council visibility:** Improving Council's presence in operations will continue to be a priority.

The 2011-13 work plan also addresses other needs that were identified, including providing more timely and better communication on new initiatives; engaging frontline workers more to drive safety; and building on improvements made in 2010, such as the new SAFE companies audit program.

More details on the 2011-13 Council work plan can be found at www.bcforestsafe.org/about/work_plan.html where a full copy is posted.

