

SAFE Companies UPDATE

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28 April 2009

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37 MORE COMPANIES BUILD A SAFER FOREST INDUSTRY

Between April 13-24, 37 more companies were SAFE certified. Congratulations to the following companies for contributing to a safer culture in the BC forest industry:

A.N.M. Construction Ltd., Grand Forks • Alkam Holdings Ltd., Monte Creek • B&N Blasting Contractors Ltd., Rossland • Black Mount Logging Inc., Squamish • Blue Collar Industries Ltd., Woss • C.H. Palliser Ltd., Lake Cowichan • Clonkilty Woodlot Ltd., Clearwater • Crabbe Contracting Ltd., Jaffray • DWC Contracting Ltd., Duncan • E.L. Contracting Ltd., Chilliwack • E+J Trucking Ltd., New Hazelton • Ecologic Consulting, Duncan • Floyd De Smoker Trucking, Hope • Gary Blackwell, Burns Lake • Gary Hall Cont. Ltd., Clearwater • Glenn Field Contracting Ltd., Prince George • Gordon Routh, Campbell River • Greenstar Forest Solutions Inc., Valemount • Hamerston Contracting Ltd., Clearwater • Karen L. Grainger, Burns Lake • Kitasoo Forestry Limited Partnership, Campbell River • Kode Contracting Ltd., Prince George • M.J. Milne and Associates Ltd., Vernon • Mattson Contracting Ltd., Hazelton • New Basics Forest Mgmt. Ltd., Kamloops • Oak Land Mechanical Ltd., Duncan • Penika Enterprises Ltd. Quesnel • Perry Bros. Contracting Ltd., Prince George • Quarter Moon Ranch Ltd., Vernon • Rainbird Contracting Ltd., Port McNeill • Robert Uzzell Contracting Ltd, Cowichan • Ross Industries Ltd., Nelson • S.M. Forrest and Assoc. Ltd., Prince George • Sar-Kris Contracting Ltd., Kelowna • Steve Nicholls, Merritt • Wayne Grimm Log Transport, Clearwater • Woodchuck Contracting Ltd., Nelson

JOIN US: MARK THE DAY OF MOURNING

Today, April 28, those of us at the BC Forest Safety Council and its 15 member organizations are joining workers and employers across the province at Day of Mourning ceremonies to remember and honour those

workers who have lost their lives, been injured or made ill on the job.

“We completely support this national day of reflection. It’s a time to recommit ourselves to making sure all workers return home from work safely everyday,” says Krista Bax, director, SAFE Companies program. “Despite the forest sector’s inherent dangers, we don’t accept that any of our workers should die or suffer life-altering injuries on the job.”

Last year, 16 forestry workers died on the job in BC. “For the past four years, our forest industry has responded at every level to improve safety performance. We’ve collectively made a good start and we expect continued improvement. But there’s still a long way to go,” says Krista. “Safety has got to be an overriding priority and integrated into every company operation.”

“Today, though, we remember our loss and reflect on the true cost of unsafe practices for workers, their families, their employers and their communities.” **Learn more about the Day of Mourning, including times and places of local ceremonies, at www.worksafefbc.com**

GORD TUCK: REBUILDING LIFE AFTER YOUR WORLD CRASHES APART

He learned about working in the woods when he was eight, and now he runs a successful contracting company involved in forestry, the same profession as his dad and granddad. He’s a loving husband and father to two girls, and a former national ski team member. He is still a champion water skier, setting a world record in 2008 — except now he gets around on the water and in his busy life with the help of a computerized leg worth \$25,000.

When you mark the Day of Mourning this year think of Gord Tuck, who lost his leg in a forestry accident 18

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1896 SAFE certified companies = Safety Leaders

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years ago and very easily could have been one of the workers who died on the job and are being remembered today.



Gord Tuck: Coping with a world of change

In his last day on two legs, Gord, age 18, was sawing branches off felled trees before they were loaded onto logging trucks. Another worker driving a front-end loader across the noisy, busy work area didn't see Gord, whose back was turned.

"I tried to jump out of the way, but my legs were caught and crushed against a four-foot-diameter log," he remembers. "The loader cut through the bone of my left leg, and barely missed the bone in my other leg. I almost bled to death."

In hospital, surgeons patched up his right leg and reattached the other one, but it didn't hold; they operated again to amputate his left leg. His initial recovery took a month in hospital, two more of home care nursing and five months at a Lower Mainland rehabilitation centre. "None of it was easy," he says.

"Learning to walk all over again, and getting my mind around the fact that this was my life from then on." Gord is one of those amazing people who come back after an accident seemingly stronger than ever. Having a glimpse into what he's gone through makes his life today seem all the more miraculous.

Along with his brothers, Corbin and Braden, he is involved with Tuck Brothers Contracting, based out of

Lake Cowichan. As president, he led the way for the company's SAFE certification last October, since they are involved with forestry activities such as logging road building, maintenance and deactivation along with other kinds of contracting and he liked the way the program formalized the company's safety activities.

"Given what happened to me, I don't want that to happen to anyone," he says. Gord is also one of the speakers in WorkSafeBC's new Young Workers' Speakers Program, sharing the need for safety in all worksites. "Safety is number one in my business. The guys on my crew know they have a responsibility to look after themselves and each other. The last thing I want is to face a worker's family — people like my parents — and explain why a limb or a life was lost," he says.

As for the Day of Mourning, he finds it's an effective way to extend awareness about safety and how quickly and unexpectedly an injury or even death can occur. "When you see the harsh reality of how many people get killed or injured on the job each year, it really brings it home that this doesn't need to happen, and how foolish it is that it continues."

BACK AT YOU MAY 26

Update will be taking a break next issue, May 12. See you again May 26.



SAFETY ALERT

ALL SEASONAL WORKERS NEED ORIENTATION

Soon, 5,000 - 7,000 seasonal silviculture workers will be working around the province. Seasonal workers qualify as new or young workers under WorkSafeBC Regulation 3.23 and need to receive an orientation before starting work, even if they are veteran tree planters returning after a break. A critical component of worker orientation is training which includes common formal training elements such as fire suppression, first aid, and hazardous materials. Other requirements may be ATV operator training. If you don't have your own orientation process, the forest safety council has a [checklist](#) that helps document worker orientations.



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

Want more information? Have a story idea or comments about SAFE Companies Update? Contact us at safeco@bcforestsafe.org • www.bforestsafe.org