

SAFE Companies UPDATE



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9 February 2010

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THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF *UPDATE*!

All the changes at the forest safety council mean more changes in communications, too — this is your last issue of *Update*!

Right now, the council is publishing several different newsletters, including *Update*, and these will all be consolidated into *Forest Safety News*. Moving forward, the type of SAFE Companies information you've been receiving in *Update* will be featured in a special section of the *News*. As well, SAFE Companies info updates and hot links to staff and other resources will be available on the web site, so check it often.

You may see even more changes in our communications tools in the future, and we appreciate your patience as we work out the best ways to serve you. But we won't waver from our commitment to providing you with the best communication possible — it's more important than ever in times of change.

– Steve Chaplin
Director, SAFE Companies

AUDIT REWORKS: YOU'RE TALKING, WE'RE RESPONDING



As the Forest Safety Council forges ahead with revising all audits, it's welcomed your input to ensure we'll be providing you with the most effective and efficient new versions. And we're happy to report you've

responded in spades!

"A big thank you goes out to everyone who's done the web survey and sent in emails and faxes, or phoned us or had in-person conversations," says Susan Everitt, safety audit advisor for the council. "We appreciate the time and effort it takes, and want you to know we find all the feedback valuable — high points and low points. It will all help shape the new audits and other council initiatives."

Your input is continuously being compiled. Here's how it's shaping up so far, and how some issues are being addressed:

What we're doing well:

- Feedback on audits is prompt, practical and useful. If people have needed help putting an audit together or if they've simply had questions, they've liked the type and timing of the response they've gotten.
- Returning maintenance audits quickly. People are appreciating the results of the new 5-week turn-around time the council has committed to.

What we're not doing so well:

- Too much paperwork; redundant questions [*The revised audits will be more streamlined.*]
- Need to be able to make electronic submissions [*You can now email us your files.*]
- Certification and maintenance audits should not be the same [*The revised audits will make the distinction.*]
- Sector-specific questions needed [*The revised audits will address this.*]
- Audit has no impact on "my" safety [*The revised audits will better show how safety and good business work together.*]
- Cost prohibitive [*Simplifying the audits will address this.*]
- Training needs improving [*This is being done in conjunction with the audit revision.*]
- Frustration with lack of action from council based on previous suggestions to improve processes [*We're doing lots to address this!*]

If you have more feedback please contact the council office at 1-877-741-1060.



YOUR TURN

WHY DID I GET ZERO ON D2 IN MY SEBASE AUDIT?

Q: This year on my SEBASE maintenance audit, you gave me a zero on D2 (new worker orientation) but last year I got a point for it. Why the difference?

CONTINUED ►

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A: There are two reasons. Until very recently, a company received a point on D2 and a continual improvement comment, even if all the mandatory items weren't covered. However, the WorkSafeBC regulation regarding new and young worker orientation changed back in 2007, and it was time to score the question in line with the regulation.

We realize that many organizations are using older versions of council forms. We know not everyone has time to keep up with these types of changes, so we're going to do a better job of informing you about them and tell you when and where new forms are available. To start, [click here](#) for the new forms for D2, new worker orientation.



SAFETY ALERT



STAY COOL WITH MACHINE FIRES

Recent machine fires point out how dangerous these fires can be, and how quickly they can spread. In one case, a machine operator noticed sparks and smoke coming from the engine compartment, which were likely from an electrical short. The operator used the available fire suppression system, but was unable to extinguish the fire. The crew on site acted immediately, including putting a fire guard around the fire, but the machine, along with logging debris and decked wood were destroyed. In another incident, an entire logging truck was quickly destroyed by fire; the source of the ignition was attributed to raw fuel escaping from a broken fuel line.

In both cases, the operators did the right thing by reacting quickly, taking emergency steps and getting safely away from their burning machines. More tips to stay safe include:

- Do more frequent and more thorough inspections. Give every check the attention it requires.
- Treat machine fires like house fires. Don't go back in to grab anything. Your safety and others' is the most important thing.
- Secure additional fire extinguishers outside the cabs or operators' compartments.

GOOD IDEAS SUMMARIZED IN ISLAND CONF. SAFETY REPORT

It was a conference that relied on participants, not "talking heads", for good ideas on improving safety. Now those ideas from last fall's Vancouver Island Safety Conference — including suggestions for the council (see pg. 7-8) — are summarized in a report [available here](#).

"Even though it wasn't a main focus, when people talked about future priorities, a lot of them focused on improving the SAFE Companies program," says Steve Mueller, the council's director of Forest Worker Development and a conference organizer. "We're already implementing a lot of those ideas, whether it's streamlining the audit process or finding ways to include best practices in the SAFE Companies training programs and communicate those more clearly." Other council "improvements" being worked on include building better linkages with WorkSafeBC and rolling out more best practices, such as those for steep slope mechanical harvesting and incident investigation.

NORTH/CENTRAL BC SUPERVISOR TRAINING & FUNDING AVAILABLE

If you're interested in training to become a basic forest supervisor or faller supervisor and you live in north/central, BC, there's good news. You might be able to tap into 2 new financial assistance programs to help cover costs. For details on the Basic Forest Supervisor course and funding availability, [click here](#). For the same details on the Faller Supervisor Course, [click here](#). Or call 1-877-741-1060.

