

SAFE Companies UPDATE

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12 November 2008

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54 MORE COMPANIES MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY

Between Oct. 27 and Nov. 7, 54 more companies were SAFE certified. Congratulations to them all:

519523 BC Ltd., Barriere • 628576 BC Ltd., Victoria • A. H. Jackson Corp., Port McNeill • Alpine Backhoe Services Ltd., Campbell River • Anything For A Buck Contracting Ltd., Burns Lake • Barrick Logging Ltd., Lac La Hache • BBK Contracting Ltd., Quesnel • Bonanza Creek Cont. Ltd., Queen Charlotte • Brent Gobbi Truckin', Prince George • Carrie Hollowink Trucking Ltd., Invermere • Cochrane Contracting Ltd., Victoria • Conran Ventures Ltd., Charlie Lake • Contour Geoscience Ltd., Comox • Corsa Contracting Ltd., Vanderhoof • Craig & Leanna Mann dba Woodlot 1595, Barriere • D Fehr Contracting Ltd., Prespatou • Dan-O Contracting Ltd., Vernon • Delann Enterprises Ltd., Quesnel • Fink's Sawmill Ltd., Smithers • FishFor Contracting Ltd., Port McNeil • For-Lands Management Ltd., Terrace • J. Munden Transport Ltd., Kamloops • James Macaulay dba Macaulay Forestry, Creston • Jim Falconer & Son Trucking Ltd., Port Alberni • Juggernaut Development Inc., Castlegar • K & W Trucking Ltd., Revelstoke • K. Bassett & Sons, Dawson Creek • Little River Res. Ltd., Comox • Lorne Samain Trucking Ltd., Kamloops • Lucas Lake Logging Ltd., Smithers • Madden Enterprises Ltd., Campbell River • Makwa Contracting Ltd., Williams Lake • Mountain Excavating Ltd., Tahsis • Nadina Logging Ltd., Merritt • NicFon Resource Management Ltd., Dawson Creek • Nimpkish Logging Ltd., Courtenay • P&N Excavating & Trucking Ltd., Armstrong • Parker Brothers Contracting Co. Ltd., Nanoose Bay • Pashco Blasting Ltd., Kamloops • QST Consulting Ltd., Campbell River • RH Barbour Logging Co. Ltd., Powell River • R&B Falling Ltd., Port Alice • R. Devick & Sons Cattle Co. Ltd., Kamloops • Richmond Logging Ltd., Squamish • Rob's Firewood, Courtenay • Ron Benisch Ltd., Williams Lake • Rugged Mtn. Ventures Ltd., Campbell River • Shallard & Shallard Ltd., Prince George • TyAnda Creek Forestry Consulting Ltd., Prince George • Wallis Environmental Consultants Ltd., Sorrento • Wayne Byer Trucking Limited, Merritt • Westes Te Nekect Logging Ltd., Williams Lake • Windy Ridge Contracting, Smithers • Xsu-wii-ax Forest Products Ltd., Takla Landing

STU SMITH: TAPPING THE KNOWLEDGE OF A LONG-TIME SAFE WORKER



Stu Smith is one of those fellows who is getting to be a rare thing in BC's forest industry. Based out of Lake Cowichan on Vancouver Island, his hands-on woods experience goes back over 40 years and includes both large licensees and small contractors. Plus he's been working on the safety side of the industry for 35+ years.

A member of the Steelworkers union and the council's Technical Advisory Committee, and with his experience as owner of Smith Safety Solutions, Stu has a practical and highly original take on woods safety. Here are some of his insights:

What's the biggest issue for safety now in the BC woods?

Most of these guys used to work for a major company when they were contracting and had those company's big safety programs to look after them. That isn't the norm any more. Now what we have are the small SEBASE operators with 2-19 people and the individual owner operators, so now they're out on their own to make safety happen.

What do you see regarding the SAFE Companies program in this new context?

When I do audits as a consultant, I talk to the workers. What I hear is that because of the program, there's a revived interest in safety on the ground. The safety meetings are better, they have better information, and that part of it is working. But the part that really worries me is that the people with the real practical knowledge are leaving the industry because of their age.

How did this knowledge gap happen?

There was a huge gap between 1985-90 where the forest industry didn't hire any new people because of the downturn. So there were very few new people hired in that period who would have come up the ranks and become the ones with the safety experience today.

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1111 SAFE certified companies = Safety Leaders

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How can we pass on to younger workers that experienced knowledge bank about safety?

I'm not sure how you can tap into once you lose it, so there has to be some way of getting those older people to pass their knowledge on. The Steelworkers, for example, has the SOAR program (Steelworker Organization of Active Retirees) that's made up of Steelworker people who are retired and willing to volunteer their time. There isn't an active chapter on Vancouver Island right now, but it could be a good way to share knowledge.

What tips can you give to small operators for staying safe?

For an IOO person or a SEBASE operator, on-going maintenance is probably one of the biggest things they can do for safety. Do inspections earlier and catch small things before they become issues. The bottom line is anything that makes you think about safety will make you safer that day and every other day.



SAFETY ALERT

KEEP YOUR CREW SAFE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM WORK

It doesn't matter if you work on the BC coast or the interior, all workers have one thing in common — getting to work. This might mean travelling on wet and icy roads, usually in the dark, and dodging loaded log trucks on busy roads. For others, it involves transportation over water. Regardless of where you work and how you get there, the daily commute is one of the most dangerous activities you'll do, so **be prepared!**

If you're driving busy roads, make sure that:

- Crew transport vehicles are in good mechanical repair and inspected regularly.
- Crew transport operators are certified and qualified for the work they are doing.
- You have the correct radio channels for the road systems that you will be operating on, and are familiar with the calling procedures.
- Emergency roadside kits are added to your vehicles. This is a small investment but it could be invaluable if your truck ends up in the snow bank "shiny side down."
- Man-check systems are in place. Spot GPS messenger system <http://www.findmespot.ca> is one component of a good man-check system used by many SAFE certified companies.

If you travel on water, ensure your workers have emergency training for the watercraft that you're traveling in. Workers must have personal floatation devices available in the event of an emergency.

We can't control many of the adverse conditions that forestry workers face, but we can do our best to ensure workers take all of the precautions and are well-equipped in case something goes wrong.

NEW MANAGER BRINGS LOADS OF HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE TO SAFETY



Years of practical experience in the woods and a deep-seated commitment to safety — these are the two top qualities Aaron Sarrazin is bringing to his new job as manager of safety services and lead trainer for the Forest Safety Council.

Based out of Prince George — which helps fulfill the council's aim to strengthen its regional presence, especially in the Prince George area — Aaron brings layers of depth and skill to his new position.

"Aaron has the safety knowledge and commitment, and the real credibility of someone who has been working hands-on in the industry, and has been doing it very recently, not 10 or 20 years ago," says Steve Mueller, council director of Forest Worker Development.

"He understands exactly what all of the issues are that face contractors today. So when they're talking about a specific hazard or a problem with a particular piece of equipment, or even a challenge in dealing with a prime contractor or licensee, he can speak from personal experience."

Aaron has worked extensively in forestry, most recently with Coyote Transport Ltd. in Prince George and as owner of his own safety and training consulting business. He's worked as a trainer with a WorkSafeBC training partner and the Forest Safety Council, where he's been an external auditor and has helped with audit reviews and forest worker development training.

You can contact him at Sarrazin@bcforestsafesafe.org, toll free at 1.877.324.1212, or 1.250.562.3215 (office).



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

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