



Falling

Decision coming in late Spring 2019 on whether fallercams are effective for evidence gathering in two scenarios



Field testing of fallercams continues prior to a decision being made this spring as to whether they are effective tools for evidence gathering for supervisor certifications and training.

A decision will be made later this quarter on whether fallercams are effective for evidence gathering by QSTs during CFS certification and for quality assurance of QSTs conducting the initial 30-days of new faller training.

“There seems to be some confusion that we are using them to audit fallers, but that’s not true,” explained lead safety advisor Scott Rushton.

He said that for the past six months he and fellow BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) falling safety advisors have been in-field

testing the technology for very specific uses in just two scenarios:

1. Supervisor to wear on day two of CFS certification and
2. Quality assurance of QSTs conducting training of new faller trainees.

“This all came about in response to the June 9, 2017, expiry of a BCFSC variance that had allowed the BCFSC QSTs to be within 2-tree lengths of active falling during day two of CFS certification and also to perform QST QA

during the 1st 30 days of new faller training,” said Scott.

“To be able to continue to obtain the required evidence for these activities and be able to observe how the supervisor is interacting with his faller and how the trainer is interacting with his trainee it was suggested that the BCFSC try having the supervisor and trainer wear body cameras and take a short video. The video could be later reviewed by the BCFSC QST who could provide feedback and recommendations,” he said.

In July of 2018 the BCFSC entered into a fallercam project plan with FPIInnovations and lotatel Inc. to test the equipment and see if it would be effective for gathering the needed evidence. The BCFSC falling department was provided with a field kit which includes a camera, chest mount and tripod to use in the testing scenarios.

The BCFSC falling safety advisors have been and will continue to do field testing with the equipment as well as participate in or attend fallercam field demonstrations.

“We are pretty confident in the technology so far and we have received positive feedback when supervisors understand what we are doing and why and how it helps support effective feedback and opportunities to point out things immediately after they happen to help improve performance and safety,” said Scott.

A final decision on whether or not the fallercam will be an effective tool going forward for the BCFSC’s needs will be made in late Spring this year. 📷

Concerns over glading-related death and opportunities for improvements

Several fallers contacted Forest Safety News about some concerns they had around glading practices in the province, following the death of an Energy Safety Canada certified faller while glading for an outdoor sport tour resort in the Golden area.

The same topic had also recently been raised with BC Forest Safety Council falling safety advisors and with members of the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC), which led to discussions with WorkSafeBC and others on what needed to be done.

There is recognition that there has been some improvement overall, but the heightened concern is for the smaller outfits that are just putting chainsaws in the hands of people who show up to work.

As a result, the BCFSC, the WorkSafeBC dedicated falling team and some industry folks will be working together to help raise awareness and support for planning and

supervision of glading, trap tree and fall and burn projects.

While the coroners’ and WorkSafeBC investigation reports into the specific incident are still pending (the BCFSC will issue an alert based on the findings of those investigations in due course), there is enough general feedback from fallers and others in industry that they feel there is a lot more that can be done to ensure all folk doing this kind of work are properly qualified – having the necessary training and skills and certification to do it – and most importantly have the proper supervision in place.

“We will be working with WorkSafeBC and industry participants to have open discussions on the topic to help shape the right tools and support to achieve better safety outcomes in these situations,” said Scott.



Scott Rushton.

If you would like to discuss, please call Scott toll-free at **1-877-741-1060** or email him at rsrushton@bcforestsafesafe.org. 📷

FTAC receives information on latest safety performance stats and other updates

The December 2018 Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting included discussions on the latest safety performance statistics as well as status updates on BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) work plan items, directed by FTAC.

As at the beginning of December 2018, the BCFSC Falling Safety Advisors had completed the following during the year:

- 10 Faller Certifications (8 NFT, 2 Challenge)
- 4 Falling Supervisor Certifications
- 216 Faller Visits
- 26 CFS Quality Assurance Visits
- 33 CFS Visits
- 15 Trainer Quality Assurance Visits

BCFSC CEO, Rob Moonen, provided an update and overview on recent falling injury statistics, some of which is shared below.

Between 2013 to 2017, the types, source and nature of injuries to manual tree fallers were as follows:

ACCIDENT TYPE	#
Struck by	230
Fall from elevation	110
Fall on same level	97
Overall % of time loss claims	63%

SOURCE OF INJURY	#
Trees, plants	224
Working surfaces	119
Power tools	109
Overall % of time loss claims	66%

NATURE OF INJURY	#
Other strains	218
Fractures	124
Lacerations	102
Overall % of time loss claims	65%

BODY PART	#
Knee	115
Wrist, fingers and hand	81
Back	73
Shoulders	57
Other, lower extremity	57
Ankle, toe and feet	52
Overall % of time loss claims	63%

Update on the New Faller Training pilots

FTAC heard that the New Faller Training pilots had now been run with industry, Energy Safety Canada and BC Wildfire Service.

Eight participants completed the industry NFT pilot – one run in May and one in September with the same trainers in each pilot to maintain consistency. All participants were successful and are working in industry. Each company that took on a trainee in the subsequent 180-day training period was offered access and licensing to iTrak to be able to easily complete assessments and submit reports on the trainee's progress.

John Jacobsen, one of the trainers in the pilots, provided his experience with the new training content, process and materials.

Trainer's Insight to NFT Pilot

- Old vs New System - pros & cons
- Totara & Student Manuals - pros & cons
- iTrak vs Paper Reports - pros & cons
- 4 Day Basic Chainsaw Course & 26 day NFT Course



GST John Jacobsen, a lead trainer of new fallers who has been piloting the revised New Faller Training program, content, materials and reporting.



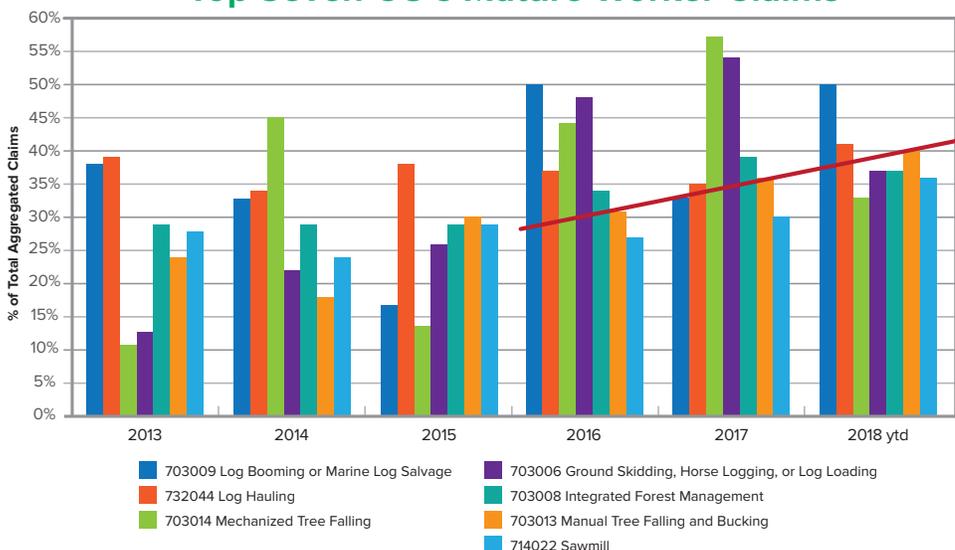
FTAC members and observers listen to a presentation at the group's last meeting in December 2018.

He said that there were pros and cons to both the old and new system. What hasn't changed is the training at the stump, but that the rest of the training and online options have improved.

He said that trainers have put a lot of time in to the program. The old materials were poor and it is good to get positive feedback which is then passed on to the BCFSC. He said that the new system piloted also mirrored industry better re style of reporting and working under supervisors.

A member of FTAC involved in the BC Wildfire Service pilots tested over the summer said that supervisors liked iTrak, and the benefits included having one go-to place to get data fairly quickly.

Top Seven CU's Mature Worker Claims



Mature Workers Claims: STD/LTD/Fatal Claims where the workers are aged 55 or older at the time of injury.

Red line highlights the increase from 2016 to 2018 in mature worker claims in the Manual Tree Falling and Bucking classification unit (703013). Mature worker claims are up 50% between 2013 and 2017. The BCFSC is looking at materials for development in 2019 to address including physical conditioning tips and tools for older workers, as well as recovery best practices for older workers. 🧑🏻‍🦺

Continued on page 14...



Falling

Continued from page 13...

John said that for trainers, iTrak meant that they could cut two hours to about 20 minutes a night after training from the reduced burden of paperwork that previously needed to be completed on each trainee at the end of each day of training.

He said that for young, new trainees, online training is important to them and allows them to start the 30-day training far better prepared and with basic knowledge versus starting cold in the old system and facing a firehose of four days of one-way pushed information. "They already have their head wrapped around a lot of content which is much better and helps keep all the trainers a lot more focused, not buried in paperwork."

"I think it is a good fit for industry ... and we can take off more of the rough edges as we get more feedback," he said.

FTAC heard that over \$1 million had been spent to date on the development of the new system. One of the biggest benefits of the system will be the portability of fallers across industry, oil and gas, and wildfire.

The three standards had previously each been accepted by WorkSafeBC on their own merit. Now the new system is essentially melding those systems' content into one so that there is a uniform standard and consistency. At the end of the day, the new system still has to be approved by WorkSafeBC.

There will be finalization of the standard and submission to WorkSafeBC by industry, oil and gas and wildfire in about April 2019.

To be ready for this review, the following items still need to be completed before then:

- The FTAC subcommittee's further feedback after a second review of the learning resources needs to be incorporated
- Units of competency have to be mapped to the learning resources and assessment tools
- Instructor guides and student manuals need to be finalized
- Interactive learner activities and updated visual learning content (pictures and videos) need to be produced.

Dazy Weymer, Jack Miller and Neil Campbell are the FTAC subcommittee members reviewing the system and materials on behalf of FTAC.

Neil told FTAC that the old learning resources were problematic. The new learning resources provide a lot more structure and direction to trainers to ensure consistency. "Trainers will not be improvising. In the past, often trainers were so confused flipping backwards and forwards that you threw it over your shoulder and then taught how you had learned to fall a tree," explained Neil.

He also said that perfecting the minute details was really important and that iTrak needed some work and there needed to be some training to help people troubleshoot so that they can be successful right off the bat. Managing expectations, Neil said that what had been put together was a good thing, but it was still a little bumpy until it was cleaned up further.

Jack agreed about the frustrations of the past and said they had now gone from two binders down to one, removing a lot of repetitive stuff. "It is easier to use and understand and I think it is going to work well," he said.

Dazy agreed with both Jack and Neil and said that now that he had been involved he had a lot more faith in the new system. "There certainly have been improvements made. I appreciate that it has been a long and convoluted process to get us here." 🙌

Vancouver Island's Don Cleaver retires from FTAC



Don Cleaver at a recent fallercam demonstration.

Don Cleaver has retired from the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) after many years of dedicated service that has helped make the falling profession a safer one.

"He will be missed for sure," says Scott Rushton, BC Forest

Safety Council lead falling safety advisor. "Don is well-known on the coast and well respected. When he shared an opinion, people listened. In regards to faller safety he is the most passionate person I've ever met. He has been an amazing mentor. His experience was also invaluable in helping to shape discussions. He was able to see the whole picture and knew the difference between what could work in theory and what would actually work at the base of a tree," said Scott.

One of the founding members of FTAC, and a legend to many in the forestry industry on Vancouver Island, Don's passion for safety and for bullbucker certification in particular, are two of many stand-out memories about Don and his contributions.

In paying tribute to Don, Dazy Weymer said that Don, who has had a long career in the falling industry, and been involved with the

FTAC from the beginning "has been a great guy to have along for the ride as the FTAC has gone through its various incarnations."

"He's always had something to say, always been worth listening to, and was usually pretty funny too. A big bonus at a long meeting. We used to joke with each other that if the two of us shut up, the meetings could be done in half the time. The thing that has most impressed me about Don, is that while he came to the meetings as a management representative, he always voiced his own opinion, loudly, strongly, and passionately, on whatever he thought was really and truly important to the actual fallers and their safety. The industry is for sure, better and safer because of his participation. We all owe him a thank you," said Dazy.

Jack Miller added that he really appreciated "his dedication and commitment to not only the FTAC, but his tireless pursuit of safety in the forest industry as well" and wished Don all the best going forward.

A scribe for FTAC meetings for many years, Allison Thompson, recalls that Don was consistently a very active participant in discussions and was a strong advocate for faller safety.

"He contributed a great deal. Whether discussing new fallers, the faller standard, danger tree management, bullbucker certification or other topics like qualified assistance or dangerous tree management, he

always had something valuable to add," said Allison.

She said that a particular passion of Don's was bullbucker certification. He participated in the development and early testing of the bullbucker certification process. "His approach to good faller supervision was fair, friendly and firm." 🙌

FTAC sent all fallers another survey in January 2019

Surveys have been mailed out to all current BC Forest Safety Council certified fallers by the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC).

All feedback received helps inform FTAC's work plan priorities for the BCFSC's falling department. In addition, any emerging issues that are identified by fallers are discussed by FTAC and action plans developed to address them.

If you have not received your survey in the mail by the middle of February 2019, please email faller@bcforestsafe.org. 🙌