



# Falling

## Two fallers died in April 2019

It is with great sadness that the BC Forest Safety Council falling team learned of two faller deaths in April.

While the incidents are still under investigation, please see the preliminary fatality alerts on page 6.

For media coverage of the first faller fatality near Kitimat, please see CKPG Today, Castanet and the Vernon Morning Star links below:

<https://ckpgtoday.ca/article/558717/police-investigating-workplace-fatality-near-kitimat>;

<https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-254708-3-.htm#254708>;

<https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/news/man-killed-in-northern-b-c-logging-accident/>

For media coverage of the second faller fatality near Holberg on Vancouver island, identified by media as a Quesnel father of six, please see: <https://www.mypowellrivernow.com/22537/investigation-into-death-of-father-of-six-in-logging-accident-will-take-longer-than-weeks/>

<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/man-dies-in-workplace-incident-at-logging-site-on-northern-vancouver-island-1.23806054>

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/man-dies-at-north-island-forestry-operation-1.4400291>

<https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/news/quesnel-man-leaves-six-kids-behind-after-port-hardy-logging-incident/>

<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/logger-killed-on-the-job-identified-as-46-year-old-quesnel-man-1.23808962>

<https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-255256-3-.htm#255256>

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/victim-in-fatal-north-island-logging-accident-identified-as-father-of-six-1.4404122>

<https://www.cheknews.ca/quesnel-father-of-six-identified-as-man-killed-in-logging-accident-on-northern-vancouver-island-557067/>

The BCFSC extends its sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the deceased and sympathies to all those affected by both these falling incidents. At the time of going to print the BCFSC was working on the best ways to effectively gather input and have peer to peer discussions with fallers to determine what actions might best support industry in light of these recent incidents.

If you are a faller and not already subscribed to the BCFSC fatality alert email service, please subscribe here by entering your email address: [http://www.bcforestsafe.org/safety\\_info/alerts\\_bulletins.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/safety_info/alerts_bulletins.html) or keep checking the BCFSC website for updated information as investigations are completed into both these incidents, and updated information shared in the hopes of preventing similar incidents in the future. 🙏

## Update on revised New Faller Training Program

Piloting of the New Faller Training Program by all three WorkSafeBC approved administrators (the BC Forest Safety Council, Energy Safety Canada, and BC Wildfire Service) took place in 2018. Feedback was gathered during this time from all involved via interviews, surveys and workshops.

The feedback received from the pilots and from an initial WorkSafeBC review is currently being applied to the program and should be completed by the end of this month for review and approval by the administrators before being submitted to WorkSafeBC for final approval.

WorkSafeBC will review the training program starting next month (July) followed by a final pilot this fall, with anticipated final approval and rollout to industry in 2020.

All three administrators will be adopting and using the new training materials and assessment tools once approved by WorkSafeBC, ensuring a standardized approach to training and certification of Fallers in BC.

### How does this impact current certified Fallers?

There is no impact to current certified Fallers. However, if a Faller is engaged with a new faller trainee who has completed training in the new program, there will be

small changes to how the trainee's work experience will be documented. iTrak is an easy-to-use online reporting system that allows trainers and supervisors to complete weekly reports on their new faller trainees.

### How does this impact current trainees?

Trainees who have completed 30 days of one-on-one training in the current program will be required to follow the current process; minimum 20 weekly reports, with the last five meeting the Standard, recommendation from their Supervisor and a minimum of 75% on the BC Faller Training Standard Field Examination and Evaluation assessment. There are currently 123 trainees who have completed the 30 day one-on-one program, but have yet to be certified.

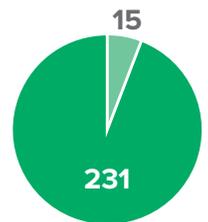
### How does this impact future trainees in the new Faller Training Program?

Starting in 2020, those trainees trained in the new program will need to meet the outcomes of that program and be certified in that system. This will include weekly reports, a recommendation from their Supervisor, and completion of a Competency Conversation and Practical Assessment. 🙏

## 2019 FTAC Faller Survey Update

Thank you to the 246 fallers (10.22% response rate) who completed and returned the 2019 Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) Faller Survey. Your time and feedback is greatly appreciated. All responses and comments will be considered by FTAC and discussed at their June 2019 meeting, before the committee decides on next steps.

Of the 2,408 surveys mailed out, 246 surveys were completed and received back. Of these, 231 were mailed in while 15 were completed online. 🙏



2,408 surveys were mailed out. Just over 10% (246) were completed and returned – 231 on paper and 15 online.

## 23 faller addresses out of date

23 of the surveys mailed out were returned by Canada Post due to outdated addresses. To ensure you receive your faller card renewals and other important mail outs, please keep your contact information current. Email [faller@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafe.org) or call the falling department toll-free at **1-877-741-1060** with any changes. 🙏

## Recent new faller training session on Vancouver Island

John Jacobsen (right) instructs  
four new faller trainees on  
undercuts and backcuts in  
stumps, in April 2019. 🌲

