



# Falling

## FTAC Faller Survey

In January 2019, the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC), supported by the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) mailed surveys to approximately 2,500 certified fallers. A total of 246, 10%, were returned which is an average return rate. Similar to the 2015 survey, questions focused on all aspects of falling including supervision, planning, training, regulations, qualified assistance and the faller standard.

At the June 2019 FTAC meeting a sub-committee was established to review the results of the survey and bring forward the key issues identified by industry. These issues will be presented at the September FTAC meeting, with the outcomes shaping FTAC's priority workplan items for 2020.

FTAC would like to thank all of the fallers and falling supervisors that took the time to complete the survey and for sharing their

opinions and comments. A summary of the survey will be completed and mailed to all certified fallers by the end of the year. A copy of the survey will also be available on the BCFSC website.

Updates on FTAC's workplan items and other initiatives will be shared in future editions of *Forest Safety News*. If you have any questions or comments about the survey, please email

[FTAC@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:FTAC@bcforestsafe.org)

### Annual Card Renewal Changing to Three Year Renewal

As a BC Forest Safety certified faller, an annual faller card is typically sent to you each year prior to your individual certification expiry date. All of that will change starting January 2020.

Through request and engagement with industry, the BC Forest Safety Falling Department will apply 3-year expiry dates to all cards. By issuing one card that expires every 3 years, administrative requirements on contractors and employers to ensure they have copies of current cards every year greatly diminishes.

Misplaced, lost or stolen cards will continue to be replaced upon request to BC Forest Safety at no additional cost. Requests for card replacement can be sent to [Faller@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:Faller@bcforestsafe.org) or by calling 1-877-741-1060.



### Supervisor Paperwork

Falling supervisors are always reaching out with comments about how much paperwork they are required to complete on any given day. One of their main responsibilities is creating and maintaining site specific block plans. On right of ways or in blocks where mechanized falling has occurred and fallers are brought in after to fall inaccessible timber, supervisors often comment that it takes them longer to create an acceptable block plan than it does to do the actual falling. To address this challenge, Scott Rushton, BCFSC's Lead Falling Safety Advisor, created a condensed version of a general block plan that includes all of the required information needed to safely run a falling project in a 6-page document that includes:

- Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- First Aid Site Assessment
- Initial Safety Meeting
- Site Hazard Assessment with Corrective Action Log
- Hand Falling Safe Work Procedures
- Changes to Workplace Plan / Block Log
- Visitor Sign In

In 2019, field testing of the condensed block plan was carried out with a number of different falling companies. "Field testing of the draft condensed block plan provided us with the opportunity to gain valuable feedback from falling companies and supervisors to ensure the document covered all aspects required for productive, safe, and efficient operations", said Scott Rushton. "The draft document will now be presented to the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) at the September meeting, where we will be looking for additional feedback from the Committee". After FTAC has completed its review, BCFSC will look at including it in the Falling Supervisor course and making it available on BCFSC's website. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the condensed block plan, please contact Scott at 250-735-2850 or by email at [srushton@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:srushton@bcforestsafe.org)