

## ■ General Manager's Report



Brian McNaughton,  
General Manager

*We wish Brian the best as he recovers from surgery. We look forward to reading his words of wisdom in the Winter issue of the Almanac. ♦*



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# Spotlight on Safety Woodlot Safety Program

*By Terry Chow*

Industry's Woodlot Safety Program was launched a little over a year ago in August 2012 and since then more than 300 electronic or paper binder copies of the program have been distributed to woodlot owners and 100's of follow-up calls, emails and site visits logged by BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) safety advisors.

Later this year, the BCFSC will be coordinating feedback from industry and compiling changes to the Woodlot Safety Program materials, seeking to update and include any additional information woodlot owners and operators would find most useful. Elements that have already been identified for consideration include communicating safety information effectively to new/young workers, training new supervisors in safety responsibilities, site specific Emergency Response Plans, site assessments – steep slopes, road grade assessments, and danger trees, and contractor management.

All Woodlot owners, contractors, employees or others involved in woodlots are encouraged to forward any additional feedback to the BCFSC (details below) to help further refine and inform future editions of the materials. The industry objective is clear: to reduce or eliminate serious injuries and fatalities in forestry. The Woodlot Safety program aims to support achieving that objective on every woodlot in BC.

Forestry operations increasingly appreciate that proper safety management is not just the right thing to do and good for business, but that

it also helps ensure they are legally protected if anything should go wrong. Woodlot operators frequently ask about falling, due diligence of contractors, Prime Contractor assignment, and related obligations and responsibilities.

In future Almanac safety columns, we will look to cover these topics as well as both general and emerging topics of safety interest, including precautions when working alone; and implementing and managing an integrated safety system.

The most important thing we wanted to share in BCFSC's first Almanac column is that the BCFSC and its team of safety advisors are here to help you – from safety training and safety document templates through to unique, site-specific considerations and recommendations. Perhaps best, the BCFSC's industry best practice advocacy, support and advice is free.

Please email questions, comments or requests for safety guidance and advice to the BCFSC at [safetyadvisors@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:safetyadvisors@bcforestsafe.org) or call toll-free: 1-877-741-1060.

*Terry Chow is a safety advisor with the BCFSC and a Registered Professional Forester and Professional Agrologist with about 28 years of experience in operational forestry in industry and government, which includes development planning, site plans, silviculture and supervising operations. Terry is currently a Safety Advisor with the BC Forest Safety Council, spending most of his time visiting forest companies to improve their forest safety management systems. ♦*

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**For more information: [www.abcfp.ca](http://www.abcfp.ca) ♦**