

Coastal Harvesting Advisory Group (CHAG) Executive Summary & Recommendations to Steering Committee

The opportunity

Currently coast harvesting experiences about three fatalities per ten million m³ harvested. Performance has plateaued and hand falling & bucking continue to account for about ½ of all fatalities. With this in mind CHAG has created a set of recommendations that it believes could lead to a step-change reduction in serious injuries and fatalities. As an industry group, the intention is to simultaneously address some of the significant structural, policy, and human issues that CHAG believes contribute to serious injury. The thought is to use the Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC) as the forum for introducing this initiative and demonstrating leaderships' commitment to reducing and eventually eliminating serious injuries on the coast.

Fatalities to end of Q1 2013

Regional Breakdown of Direct Harvesting Fatalities:

	2009	Fatality Rate	2010	Fatality Rate	2011	Fatality Rate	2012	Fatality Rate	2013 Q1	Fatality Rate
Interior	1	0.3	2	0.4	2	0.4	3	0.8	1	0.6
Coast	3	2.4	4	2.1	6	2.8	7	3.6	0	0
Total	4	0.8	6	0.9	8	1.1	10	1.4	1	0.5

Regional Breakdown of Harvest Levels (m³):

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Q1
Interior	39,084,008	48,295,905	51,469,881	51,038,490	17,343,097
Coast	12,568,123	18,659,819	21,656,516	20,027,673	4,285,798
Total	51,652,131	66,955,724	73,126,397	71,066,164	21,628,895

Note: Fatality rates are based on number of fatalities per ten million cubic metres of wood harvested

CHAG Recommendations

The general objective of the Coast Leadership Group is to take the contractor-based operating system to the next level of safety performance.

The objective of the Coastal Harvesting Advisory Group (CHAG) project in safety is to develop and implement systems, policies, procedures, expectations and mechanisms to produce a sustainable reduction in and eventual elimination of serious injuries and fatalities associated with timber harvesting and related operations in Coastal British Columbia. A particular focus of the work is on contractor operations.

Objectives

CHAG considered a multitude of potential objectives and prioritized them as follows:

1. Shorter term/High impact
2. Longer term/High Impact

Shorter term (High impact)

Element	Action	Who	By when
Falling hazards OG/2G	Create a training module which will be made available to the industry	SAFER (Ron & John)	In progress
Planning	Create a training module which will be made available to the industry	SAFER (Ron & John)	In progress
Phase congestion	Create an industry standard eliminating the practice of stacking	CEO	Commence now
Phase congestion	Incorporate scheduling of phases into the planning/harvesting process to reduce congestion and the chance of stacking	CEO	Commence now
Phase congestion	Reinforce that supervisors/workers have the authority to stop work and seek assistance if they feel congestion (or other issues) is creating a hazard or undo pressure to complete a phase so the next can start	CEO	Commence now
Dangerous trees	Create a work plan to adopt blasting as an industry standard where other options are not practical	CEO	Commence now
Supervision	Adopt the faller task force recommendation to require certified bull buckers by the end of 2014	CHAG & BCFSC	Dec 31, 2014
Fit to fall	Develop & conduct Diet & Hydration training for fallers (First priority)	CHAG & BCFSC	Commence this fall
Fit to fall	Develop & conduct personal awareness training for fallers (Falk) (First priority)	CHAG & BCFSC	Commence this fall
Fit to fall	Develop & conduct a degraded imaging training for fallers (First priority)	CHAG & BCFSC	Commence this fall
Fit to fall	Increase awareness of fatigue and impairment for fallers (First priority)	CHAG	In progress – topic at VISC
Crew Involvement	As owners and tenure holders expect contractors to involve workers when conducting incident investigations, inspections and safety meetings in the spirit of the WorkSafe regulations	CEO	Commence now
SAFE Audit	Revise to incorporate new thinking	BCFSC	Dec 31, 2013
Coast Industry Stats	Identify a statistical model for capturing and analysing serious injuries on the coast to create a benchmark to compare against	CHAG	Commence now

Longer term (High impact)

Element	Action	Who	By when
Incentive to perform	Decide on a forest industry performance based model and report to steering committee	CHAG & BCFSC	Dec 31, 2013
Attracting & training new recruits	Create a CHAG-like team of stakeholders to consider the issue of attracting and training the new recruits required to replace a retiring workforce.	CEO	TBA
Leadership	Create a suite of training for managers and supervisors	CHAG & BCFSC	Commence as a next step
Working in and around equipment	Continue to analyse and come up with recommendations to address this issue	CHAG	Commence as a next step

The future of CHAG

CHAG sees value in continuing for the foreseeable future. It is a practical interface between the major employers (including government through the timber sale process) and industry stakeholders like the contractor community, USW, BCFSC, the faller task force. CHAG believes that as the recommendations are rolled out to industry that it can play a role in assisting the players to adopt the new standards, and conduct the recommended training. It can also monitor progress and begin to consider the next logical steps to further reduce serious injuries on the coast.