

Coastal Harvesting Advisory Group Terms of Reference

The Coastal Harvesting Advisory Group is being formed to improve harvesting safety performance. Safety performance has improved significantly throughout British Columbia and on the Coast since 2005. In 2010, the reductions plateaued, and in 2011 and 2012 the injury and fatality rates have increased. The leadership of the major coastal tenure holders is commissioning the task force to work together as a coastal industry to move the safety results off the plateau back to an improving trend.

The task force is being asked to formulate a specific objective of the work and a set of actions to achieve the objective. The task force will report back to the Coastal Leadership group for verification of the objective and action plan, and potentially if any messaging of the effort is required to contractors, government or others. The Coastal Leadership group sponsoring this effort is comprised of Brian Frank of TimberWest, Darshan Sihota of Island Timberlands, Don Demens from Western Forest Products, Dwight Yochim of the TLA, Mike Falkiner of BC Timber Sales, Bob Matters from the USW, and Otto Schulte of Interfor.

Defining the Objective - The general objective of the Coastal Leadership group is to take the contractor based operating system to the next level of safety performance. The task force is to take this objective to a specific measurable objective.

Setting an Action Plan – The task force is to determine an action plan to achieve the objective. The action plan is to address the basic system of safety management, including the update of the SAFE Companies audit and the ongoing role of COR, as well as specific issues that lead to fatalities, for example falling.

Other Opportunities: While meeting the group can share best practices and increase awareness of new risks identified in operating the business.

Support: The Coastal Harvesting Advisory Group will have the support of a facilitator, Ken Higginbotham, as well as administrative and between meetings working support from the BC Forest Safety Council. The BC Forest Safety Council will have an individual work as liaison with the group. The Council will provide historic data and information regarding injuries and fatalities in Coastal operations, as well as updates on current efforts. Funding and support for specific action items requested by the group from the Council will require Council Board/Program committee support.

Key Processes:

- Schedule rotating agenda-driven meetings
- Ensure that practice/key learnings sharing is on every meeting agenda
- Forward any issues or concerns that are outside of the scope to key leaders within this group
- Assign smaller scale initiatives to sub- groups of this team to address
- Establish communication procedures to keep the sponsors, team and key people informed
- Identify, define and establish the key metrics and baselines
- Identify emerging issues and develop plans to address
- Create membership criteria for new organisations to join this group

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Value to The Industry of Being Successful

- Lower overall injury and serious injury rates.
- Lower WSBC insurance costs in the respective CUs.
- Improved public image of the forest industries proactive approach to safety.
- An improved working relationship with WSBC..

Value to The Individual Companies

- Improved injury reduction
- Access to best practices
- More time spent on improving safety results in operations vs. time spent responding to legislated policy.
- Lowered cost of audits
- Improved value from time spent on audits