



Trucking & Harvesting Advisory Group

## Driving For Safety

### Phase Integration in Forestry Operations

Phase integration is the coordination of harvesting and hauling activities within an operation. This can include one or more contractors working at the same time in the same worksite or general area. Without proper planning, these areas can become overcrowded or jammed, leading to phase congestion. Phase congestion is an industry-wide challenge and has resulted in serious injuries and fatalities. As a result, there has been a focus on phase integration from both industry and WorkSafeBC. Currently WorkSafeBC is visiting contractors in the field with a focus on this issue.

This focus on phase integration has multiple purposes:

- Create awareness and knowledge with regards to safe phase integration
- Help industry understand and apply appropriate risk management principles for phase integration
- Help industry to understand the controls required in a forestry operation
- Ensure industry is integrating phases in a safe and consistent manner
- Collect consistent and reliable data and information for WorkSafeBC's future forestry prevention initiatives
- Collect and use data to measure change in the industry with regards to knowledge, understanding, and practice of phase integration in the forestry sector

A critical component of phase integration is effectively managing risk. This involves three key steps:

- 1 Identifying hazards**  
To protect workers, begin by accurately identifying hazards in your workplace. A hazard is anything that has the potential to cause harm, such as falling, yarding/skidding, processing and loading.
- 2 Assessing risks**  
The next step is assessing the risk these hazards pose to workers. The risk is the chance — high, medium, or low — that somebody could be harmed by these hazards, as well as how serious the harm could be.
- 3 Controlling risks**  
If you've identified high or moderate risks, the next step is controlling the risks. You must correct unsafe conditions.

For the remainder of 2019 and through 2020, WorkSafeBC has indicated they will engage harvesting and hauling contractors in reviewing phase integration and congestion

Industry is also working on this issue and has developed phase management resources which can be found at:

<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/3109>



# Safe Driving is Good Business