

Regulation and guideline

G26.28 Summoning qualified assistance

Issued June 26, 2014

Regulatory excerpt

Section 26.28 of the OHS Regulation ("Regulation") states:

(1) Qualified assistance must be readily available to fallers in case of difficulty, emergency or injury.

(2) Fallers and buckers must have an effective means to summon assistance.

Section 26.23(2)(h) and (j) of the Regulation states:

(2) Fallers and buckers associated with falling activities must be provided with and follow written safe work practices acceptable to the Board for the type of work activity they perform, including procedures for the following:

(h) summoning and rendering assistance to manage a falling difficulty or to deal with an emergency;

(j) ensuring the well-being of each faller and buckers at least every half hour and at the end of the work shift.

For the complete guideline and regulation, see [WorkSafeBC Guidelines Part 26 - Manual falling and bucking](#)

Career faller with 20+ years of injury-free experience.

"No tree is more valuable than my life or any faller's life"

Questions?

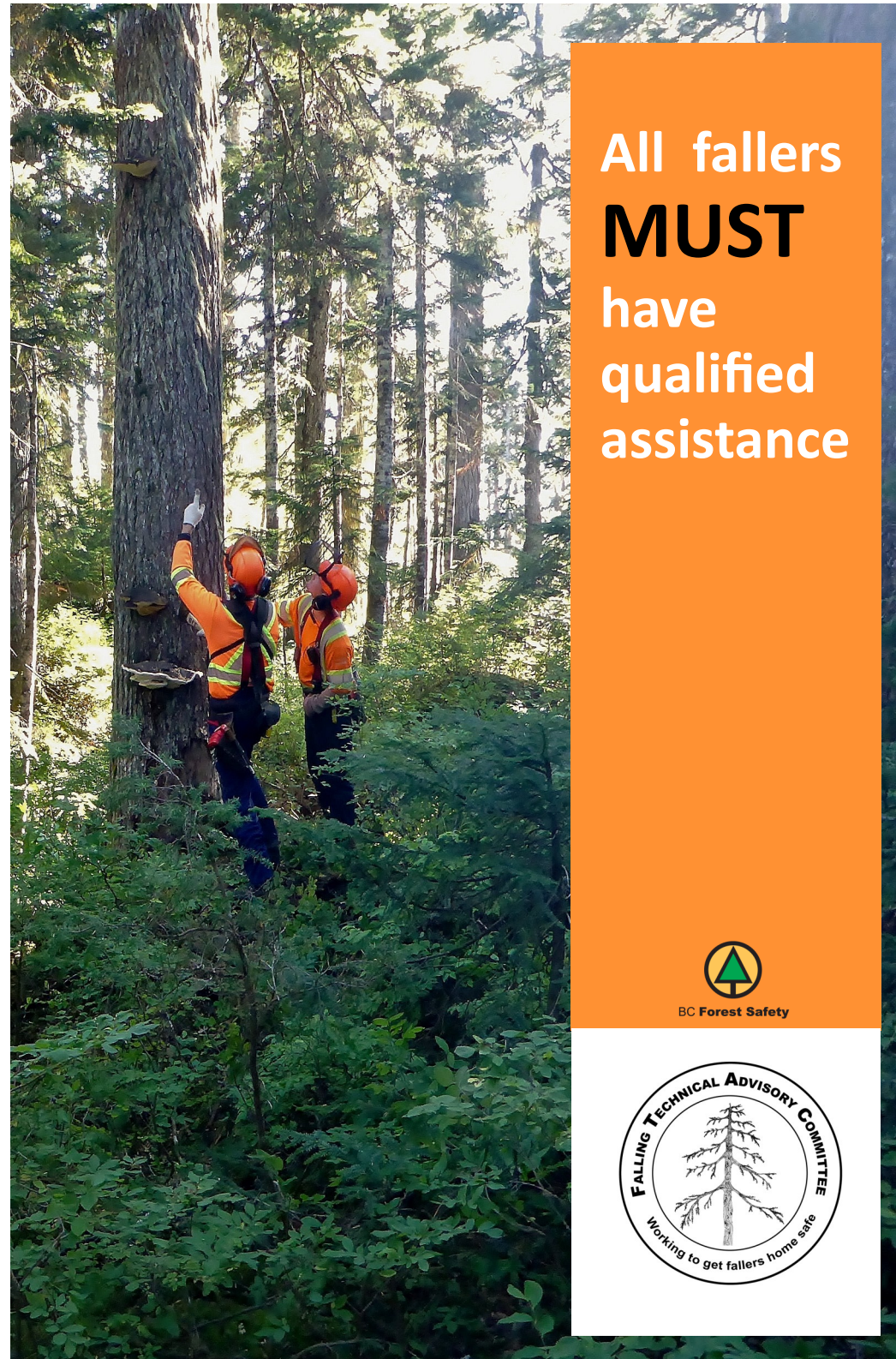
Still not sure about **qualified assistance** and what it means to you and your workplace?

Please call a BCFSC Falling Safety Advisor toll-free at 1.877.741.1060 or a WorkSafeBC safety officer at 1.888.621.7233.

All fallers
MUST
have
qualified
assistance



BC Forest Safety



All fallers **must** have qualified assistance.

This is a regulatory requirement and it must be in place for every faller.

There are no exceptions.

WHAT IS QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE?

The supervisor, employer/contractor, licensee or land owner must make sure that every faller has access to a person or people capable of effectively helping, advising or assisting the faller.

Fallers and buckers must have an effective means to summon qualified assistance.

A plan must be in place where the qualified assistance person/people know what is expected of them and they must be able to respond as needed, when needed.

WHEN DOES A FALLER NEED QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE?

Qualified assistance must be readily available to fallers in case of difficulty, emergency or injury as per OHS Regulation 26.28.

1. A falling difficulty — no urgent action required. For example, a faller is unsure about how best to handle a hazard tree. He has the opportunity to create a no-work zone until qualified assistance is available.

2. An emergency — urgent action is required. For example, a faller is pinned under a log. Qualified assistance could mean machine assist if appropriate, or someone who has the skills and PPE to immediately assist and buck him out.

3. An injury — must have basic first aid coverage readily available to all fallers within a surface travel time (walking) of not more than 10 minutes. OHS Regulation, section 3.18(2).

Bottomline: The supervisor, employer/contractor, licensee or land owner must be able to prove that they have provided the necessary, qualified assistance to comply with the regulation.

Self-quiz on qualified assistance

1. In what situations must faller have qualified assistance available?

- a. Falling difficulty, emergency, injury
- b. Emergency, traffic control, adverse weather
- c. For 6- 10 man crews, First Aid, assistance with jackpots
- d. When doing machine assist, working around creeks

2. In what conditions can a machine operator be qualified to provide qualified assistance?

- a. The operator has extensive experience
- b. The machine has a processing head attached
- c. The falling site is on flat ground
- d. The operator continually communicates with the faller, and the machine has immediate access to the faller all times. (10 minutes surface travel time)

3. How often must the faller on a job do a man-check?

- a. Maximum 20 minute intervals
- b. Maximum 30 minute intervals
- c. Maximum 40 minute intervals
- d. Maximum 60 minute intervals

4. Where should a faller keep his portable radio while he's working?

- a. In his backpack
- b. On his belt or in a chest pack
- c. With his spare gear
- d. With his fuel jugs

5. What information does a faller need to provide to their qualified assistance?

- a. The bucking specs for the block
- b. Location of other crews in the area
- c. His location, how to access that location
- d. The weather shutdown criteria