BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

New Faller Training Program Information Package

Purpose:

The BC Forest Safety Council is committed to providing members and clients with exceptional service. This includes providing accurate information and guidance to prospective participants to ensure they make informed decisions about their program purchase and enrollment.

Assessment and admission criteria are well publicized and applied consistently. This will ensure potential participants have clear access and lines of communication regarding the admission requirements, assessment tools, and dispute resolution guidelines.

Entry assessment tools and admission requirements enable potential participants to clearly assess their own ability to meet required basic knowledge, skills, and abilities to achieve program outcomes.

Overview:

The BC Faller Training Standard is intended to develop trainee fallers in their 30 days of basic training required under regulation in British Columbia. Trainees will learn the basics of manual tree falling and related duties that include the following:

- Basic Chainsaw Operations
- Hazard Recognition, Evaluation and Control
- Appropriate undercuts and backcuts
- Directional control of falling tree
- Danger tree assessment
- Limbing and Taping
- Bucking felled trees and logs safely
- Face Management (5 Tree Plan)

New Faller Training is available to all potential applicants who are physically and mentally fit and possess the desire to work safely and productively as a hand faller. All applicants will be required to complete a Faller Readiness Assessment. The Faller Readiness Assessment was created with input from industry to help identify those individuals most likely to be successful in the program and as Fallers in the future. The key dimensions of a successful candidate entering the New Faller Training program identified by industry are:

- Spatial ability
- General cognitive ability
- Learning and adaptability
- Stress tolerance/resilience
- Productivity
- Organization identification
- Working collaboratively.

The Faller Readiness Assessment is comprised of six tests that consist of cognitive ability and personality inventory. The testing should take approximately two hours and is completed online. Once the tuition is paid, access to the Faller Readiness Assessment will be provided.

Course Requirements

Program Goals

Participants in the program will:

1. Develop the skills and knowledge expected in the industry.
2. Understand the BC Faller Training Standard and become familiar with the WorkSafeBC regulations that apply to the industry.
3. Work through the required skills of falling, demonstrating the ability to safely perform the skills before progressing to the next level.
4. Apply theory through hands-on practical training.

Program Format

The program is set up with 30 days of closely supervised field and classroom training. The field training location varies depending on available timber supply.

You will be required to complete the assigned online learning resources PRIOR to the first day of the course. Review of some modules may be required during the course, depending on instruction from your Trainer. All modules MUST be completed by the end of the 30-day program in order to receive a Certificate of Completion.

Allow up to 40 days to complete the 30 days of training to allow for inclement weather or other delays.

The New Faller Training Course Model:

- All Trainers are experienced fallers.
- Training is completed with a ratio of 1 Trainer to 1 trainee.
- Field sites are appropriate for forestry operations.
- New Faller Training is treated like an actual workday.
- Quality Assurance is performed by the BC Forest Safety Council.

New Faller Training Module Description:

The training is competency-based so the basics are understood by the participants before moving onto more advanced skills.

1. Identifying Safe Work Procedures
   - The BC Faller Training Standard and other written safe work procedures for falling and bucking will be reviewed with the participants. The correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be practiced, and the safety features of the chainsaws will be shown.

2. Safety Meetings and Emergency Evacuation Procedures
   - Participation in safety meetings will be an on-going activity during training. Emergency evacuation procedures will be in place at the site and the participants will gain an understanding of what is required to evacuate an injured worker quickly and safely from the site.

3. Maintaining and Operating Equipment
   - Topics that will be covered in this module include choosing the correct chainsaw, refueling, engine problem troubleshooting, chain filing and the chainsaw maintenance checklist. Proper maintenance of PPE and additional tools such as axes and wedges will be discussed.

4. Demonstrate Chainsaw Operation
   - During this module the participants will learn the basics of properly handling and using chainsaws. No tree falling will occur during this module. Participants will practice their skills by bucking logs and other lower risk activities. Participants must be signed off as competent in this module before proceeding to the next module.

5. Limbing and Bucking
   - The proper techniques for removing the tree limbs and cutting (bucking) the logs will be demonstrated and practiced by the participants. Specific skills related to cutting loaded limbs, bucking oversized trees, and avoiding saw binds will be taught.

6. Site Assessment
   - Site assessment techniques used to identify potential hazards such as danger trees, unsafe terrain, jackpots, poor access, and weather will be taught to the participants. Participants will develop their skills so they will be completing their own site assessments by the end of the training.

7. Danger Tree Assessment
   - Participants will learn how to identify and assess danger trees in this module.

8. Techniques and Procedures
   - Run saw horizontally, learning how to put undercuts and backcuts in.
   - Participants will start out with basic falling work and will move up to more complex and challenging situations as their skills progress.

9. Use of Axes and Wedges
   - Wedging procedures to maintain the control of the tree and the proper use of axes will be covered in this module.
   - Falling techniques such as falling against the lean.

10. Upslope Falling
    - Special techniques for falling trees upslope will be discussed in this module. Steep slope and riparian falling techniques will also be covered.

11. Manage Falling Hazards
    - In this module, participants will learn how to manage falling more challenging trees such as heavy leaners, limb-tied trees, cut-up or hung-up trees, and dead trees.
    - Falling danger trees.

Transportation to Marshalling Area

Participants will be expected to arrange their own transportation to the designated marshalling area. In most cases, the marshalling area is located at the accommodation that the participant will be staying at. Transportation to the field site will be provided.

Accommodations & Food Requirements

Accommodations are the responsibility of the participants and MUST be paid upon arrival - no exceptions. To keep costs down, participants may be asked if they want to share accommodations. Please allow for a 40-day period when planning for this cost to allow for possible inclement weather conditions and delays. Every effort is made to identify accommodation within close proximity to the field training site. Participants enrolled in the New Faller Training Program will receive accommodation information as soon as it becomes available.

BC Forest Safety Council is not responsible for damage, loss of equipment, or extra fees incurred at accommodations that participants reside in during the course of the program.

Participants are responsible for their own meals.

Tuition:

Participants are responsible for the full payment in advance of the course start date, by the deadline as outlined by the Course Registrar – College of the Rockies. Tuition for the 30-day New Faller Training course is cost recovery* and is $27,500 + GST in 2026. Tuition fees are collected by the College of the Rockies. Please contact the College at 250-344-5901 or email golden@cotr.bc.ca to register and provide payment information.

*Cost recovery: The BCFSC is a not-for-profit organization. Fees pay for Trainers, supplies and other external costs associated with the New Faller Training course.

Medical Insurance Coverage:

Participants are required to provide proof of MSP (BC Medical Services Plan) to the College of the Rockies by providing their Care Card number. For those candidates attending from another

province, that province's Care Card number will be accepted. For those attending from another country, proof of medical coverage/insurance is required by providing the policy number to the College of the Rockies.

WorkSafeBC insurance coverage is provided for participants in this course unless currently employed and being paid by an employer to attend the course. If applicable, it is recommended to get confirmation in writing from the employer of WorkSafeBC coverage during program attendance.

Falling Career – National Occupational Classification Requirements

Physical Requirements: Falling is a physically demanding career. Rough or uneven terrain, poor visibility, weather conditions including snow, rain and wind, fire, the proximity of other trees and obstacles may require advanced strength, agility, and stamina.

Visional Assessment: Fallers need to be able to make assessments of their work area. It is recommended to have good depth perception and peripheral vision.

Body positions: Falling and bucking activities require flexibility and agility.

Multiple limb coordination: work activities are carried out by coordinating the movements of upper limb(s) simultaneously with lower limb(s).

Strength requirements: falling and bucking timber is physically demanding job. Participants must be physically fit.

Essential Skills: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/les/profiles/guide.shtml

Aptitude and Attitude: It is critical that all participants come to this program with a general interest in and ability to learn from others. You must have the ability to critically assess sites, terrain, weather, and other hazardous situations before falling trees. Mechanical aptitude is important for maintaining and servicing your equipment including power saws.

Physics: Falling involves a series of actions and reactions. Fallers must be able to assess trees and hazards, applying the concepts of physics.

Reading: be able to apply the skills to understand and apply information in the training manuals, forms, and other reference materials daily.

Writing: be able to compose handwritten and/or typed text to communicate information and ideas as well as fill out reports and forms daily.

Communication: be able to exchange thoughts and information, give and receive instructions with other people by speaking, listening, and using non-verbal cues such as body language and learned hand signals for safety purposes.

Language Proficiency: must be able to communicate, understand and take safe direction from supervisor trainer. If English is the second language, BCFSC has the authority to request that the participant successfully complete a TOEFL assessment and provide proof of proficiency. The cost is the responsibility of the applicant.

Thinking: be able to problem solve, make decisions, think critically and quickly. To be able to plan, remember details and make sound judgments regarding safe work practices.

Working with others: Communication and interaction skills and attitude are critical to promote safe work practices in a complex work environment. Participants must demonstrate the ability to share resources, plan, make decisions, negotiate, solve conflicts, and complete other activities that involve teamwork.

Environmental Conditions:

Hazards: Falling of trees is inherently dangerous. Each work location will have falling hazards that need to be assessed and need to have a plan in place.

Work Conditions: Outdoor work environment can be harsh and often in remote wilderness locations. Worker will be exposed to variations in weather conditions and seasonal weather patterns.

Learning Deficiencies: The trainee must notify the BCFSC and trainer of any learning deficiencies. If the trainer identifies any learning difficulties that have not been disclosed, it may result in termination from the training program.

The trainer will make every effort to accommodate learning deficiencies to assist participants in achieving successful training program outcomes. Some potential examples may be color blindness, slower cognitive retention of reading materials and the ability to apply practical safety awareness.

Competency Requirements for Successful Completion of the Course

Assessments will be a combination of formative assessments, Trainer feedback and a final written exam. Participants must receive successful Trainer feedback at designated times throughout the course or be subject to termination. At the end of the program the Trainers will provide each successful participant with a Summary of Training that will identify the specific level of competence achieved during the training program before entering the ‘up to 180 days’ work experience. This Summary of Training will be part of the Letter of Completion issued by the BC Forest Safety Council.

Code of Conduct

Any and all infractions for the following criteria may impose immediate termination.

Safety

All participants will abide by all safety regulations, legislation, the BC Forest Safety Council Health & Safety Policy and waiver.

Specific safety personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required to be purchased and maintained in excellent condition at the participant's cost.

As in actual faller working environments, it is the Council's responsibility to manage a safe working and learning environment. Accommodations are considered a 'dry camp' with strict policies which prohibit alcohol or non-prescription drug use day or night. There is a zero-tolerance policy regarding drugs and alcohol while enrolled in the New Faller Training program. Violation will be subject to disciplinary process which may include termination from the program.

Attendance

Mandatory full-time attendance is required. Participants will be held accountable for adhering to the training schedule as an expectation of performance for this program.

If an extreme emergency or extenuating circumstances arise, the Falling Manager may approve alternate arrangements to complete the thirty regulated days of New Faller Training at the participant's cost.

Ethical Behavior

Participants are expected to act and perform in a professional manner at all times.

Participants must treat all other participants, Trainers, accommodation staff and program administrators with respect and must not engage in physically aggressive, threatening, harassing, discriminatory or otherwise offensive behavior.

Confidentiality will be expected with regards to any and all activities during the course of the training period. Participants are responsible to report any unsafe and/or illegal practices witnessed to the Lead Trainer immediately.

Participants must not steal, misuse, destroy or deface property.

Participants must not contravene any provision of the Canadian Criminal Code or any other federal, provincial, or municipal statute or regulation.

Equipment and Supplies

It is the participants' responsibility to have the necessary equipment and supplies required. It is recommended that you speak with the Lead Trainer prior to purchasing any equipment. Participants are reminded that they are responsible for their own valuables. If participants are loaned equipment, they are responsible to take good care of it and return it in the shape that it was received. A list of required equipment and supplies is provided below.

Terminations and Withdrawals

Cause for termination may arise for the following reasons:

- Participant demonstrates unsafe actions and/or behaviors;
- WorkSafeBC Designated High Risk Violations;
- Participant is physically unfit to perform the required training;
- Participant demonstrates inability to react and make critical decisions in a timely and safe manner and
- Participate displays a poor attitude.

It is incumbent of the Trainer to apply "due diligence" and in so, to assess the likelihood of the participant to be able to achieve the appropriate skill level to work safely in a production falling environment. Due to the high hazardous nature of the work activity, participants will be evaluated on an on-going basis throughout their training. If any concerns are identified, the Trainer will create a plan and work with the participant to address the concern. If the concern has not been resolved, the student may be removed from the program and issued a prorated refund for tuition. Accommodation arrangements vary and it may or may not be possible to receive a prorated refund for accommodation expenses paid.

All withdrawals from the program must be followed up in writing by the participant.

Refund Criteria - Other

Up to 2 weeks prior to the course start date, a full refund will be issued.

Less than two (2) weeks prior to the course start date, there is no refund, except as noted in the terminations and withdrawal section.

In the event that the course is cancelled or postponed due to circumstances beyond our control, such as weather, tuition fees will either be refunded on a pro-rated basis or transferred to another course.

Dispute Resolution

The BC Forest Safety Council has a four (4) step dispute resolution process that will be applied in the event of any disputes.

Step 1: Individuals are expected to deal directly with the affected party to which a disagreement has ensued. It is important to ensure clear mutual understanding of expectations and resulting disagreements. Individuals are encouraged to attempt to resolve conflicts or disputes as soon as possible in an informal and respectful manner.

If a conflict occurs, a direct approach is expected with clear explanation of: 1.The specific situation; 2. The result/outcome of the situation; 3. A proposed resolution.

If the parties cannot reach a mutually agreeable resolution, the complainant may proceed to dispute resolution through the organizational structure of BCFSC.

Step 2: If, after working with the trainers/supervisors the complainant is not satisfied with the outcomes/decisions, the disputed may escalate to the BCFSC Coordinator in writing (email). Explanation to include: 1.The situation; 2. The complaint plus the defense; 3. The recommended resolution.

The BCFSC Coordinator will work with the falling management team to resolve the issue and determine the outcome/decision. BCFSC Coordinator will respond to complainant personally by telephone and follow up with an emailed written response.

Step 3: If, after working with the BCFSC Coordinator the complainant is not satisfied with the outcomes/decisions, the dispute may escalate to the Falling Manager. The Falling Manager will make every effort to assist in the resolution of a dispute, including and notwithstanding the further investigation, review and evaluation of the situation or demonstrated behaviors and practices.

Step 4: If, after working with the Falling Manager the complainant is not satisfied with the outcomes/decisions, the complainant can contact the Forest Safety Ombudsman who will investigate the situation and make final decision on the dispute.

Work Placement & Certificate of Qualification Faller

The steps required to receive a Certificate of Qualification Faller are as follows:

1. Completion of 30-day BC New Faller Training Program
2. Work as a trainee faller in a forestry/production setting under the direction and close supervision of a BCFSC certified faller
   - Completion of this 30-day training program authorizes candidates to work as trainee fallers in BC under the direction and close supervision of a BCFSC certified faller. Candidates are responsible to arrange the 'up to 180 days' of falling experience in a forestry/production setting with a BCFSC certified faller.
   - During this time, a minimum of 20 Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports must be completed and submitted to the BCFSC. These reports must be submitted within 2-months of the date the work took place and will expire after a 2-year period.
   - The last 5 approved weekly progress reports must clearly indicate the trainee is meeting the BC Faller Training Standard in all parts.
   - After the minimum amount of weekly progress reports have been approved, the trainee's supervisor must clearly indicate that the trainee is ready to be assessed.
   - During the 'up to 180 days', the BCFSC will schedule, at minimum, 3 quality assurance visits. This is to provide support to not only the trainee but also the faller or supervisor providing the training.
3. Apply for Certification through the BC Forest Safety Council – additional fee is required.

Note: Individuals that complete the 30-day BCFSC New Faller Training program are required to communicate any changes to their work situation with the BCFSC. These changes could include, but are not limited to, short and/or long-term layoff, inability to find work for the 'up to 180-days', changes to your health that affect your ability to work, and anything that would delay weekly progress reports from being submitted.

If no attempt has been made to communicate your specific situation with the BCFSC, your New Faller Training Certificate of Completion will expire in 1-year, and you will be required to retake the 30-day New Faller Training course.

New Faller Training Equipment Supply List

ITEM:	COST*:
Chainsaw suitable for timber type with bar size of 30”-36” and associated tools – DISCUSS WITH TRAINER • Stihl 500 or 046 (No ‘Bark Box’ allowed) • Husqvarna 592 or 572	$1,700.00
Spare chainsaw chain: • Stihl chainsaw: 75 JP Oregon • Husky chainsaw: 75 JP Oregon	$40.00
Spare bar: • Stihl 75/63 gauge • Husky: 75/63 gauge	$130.00
Spare rewind rope for chainsaw	$7.00
Files: • 6 of each round, size 13/64 & 7/32 **AND** 2 flat files	$35.00
File guide: 3/8”, blue roller type - DISCUSS WITH TRAINER	$14.00
Bar nuts, sprocket and clip, and assorted bolts	$20.50
Gas and oil containers, CSA Approved: • 1 gal. combi-can type	$25.35
Axe: **COAST:**……27” x 3 ½ lb with pinned head **INTERIOR:**…….17” x 3 ½ lb with pinned head	$45.00
Wedges: • 4 – 10” single taper, KD type • **AND** 1 – 12” KD type only, red and white **WEDGE POUCH MUST FIT 3 WEDGES**	$20.00/each
Wedge pouch for 3 wedges	$18.95
Wedge belt: shoulder straps preferred	$29.95
Husqvarna falling tape – recommended (ask to have horseshoe nail installed)	$118.00
Spare tape rewind and spare horseshoe nail	$56.00
Radio, suitable for outdoor use with mic: **Recommend Kenwood Model NX-1200AK2 or ICOM model IC-F1000S** Radio frequency – 157.590 MHz: tone 186.2 Hz on both Tx & Rx, narrow band – DISCUSS WITH TRAINER	$594.00
Earmuff headset	$140.00
Radio chest pack	$65.00
Fire extinguisher for wedge belt: squeeze type	$13.50
Packsack: durable, army surplus type – DISCUSS WITH TRAINER	$60.00
Work watch – worn on suspenders	$12.00
Drinking water container for field use: minimum 2 liters	$6.00
Durable Rubbermaid Tote with lid – for packing your gear in the back of the pickup (15 Wide X 22 Long X 16 High)	$50.00
TOTAL:	**$3,280.25**

** Prices subject to change*

Personal Protective Equipment Supply List

ITEM:	COST*:
Hard hat (orange): 6 point, with face screen, and earmuffs, new or less than 1 year old and in good condition	$79.95
Gloves: 6 pairs	$12.00
Safety glasses (optional)	$13.95
Caulk boots: leather or rubber, in good condition	$400.00 +
Spare caulks for boots	$30.00
First Aid Kit for wedge belt and extra pressure dressing	$17.25
Falling pants: 3600 or 4100 threshold chain-speed (red or yellow label) in good condition	$300.00 +
Suspenders: button type	$27.95
Whistle: pealess	$7.95
Hi-Vis apparel:	
-long sleeve shirt with 120 square inches of reflective on front and back	$35.00
-rain coat (must be Hi-Vis with reflective markings) - **DISCUSS WITH TRAINER**	$95.00
-rain pants	$90.00
Ensure all hi-vis is new or clean, meeting the Standard	
TOTAL:	**$1,109.05**

** Prices subject to change*