



Employers registered within WorkSafeBC's classification units in Integrated Forest Management (703008) and Manual Tree Falling and Bucking (703013) will have recently received the attached WorkSafeBC letter regarding supervision, specifically relating to faller supervision.

In separate incidents during a short two-week period earlier this spring, two hand fallers suffered fatal injuries and a third faller had a near-miss that could have resulted in a fatal injury. While investigations are underway to identify the definitive causes of these incidents, it is of benefit to everyone in the industry to remind themselves of the circumstances that often lead to incidents like these and what can be done to address them before another tragic outcome occurs.

As an immediate step, WorkSafeBC will continue to conduct focused risk-based inspections of hand falling operations and will ramp up inspections beginning in the fall with an increased focus on the effectiveness of falling supervision.

In the coming months, WorkSafeBC will also be partnering with BCFSC to provide webinars on topics related to key responsibilities for safety in forestry, including effective supervision for hand fallers. BCFSC will be posting information on our website and on social media as it becomes available.

To help industry prepare for a visit from a WorkSafeBC Officer, BCFSC Falling Safety Advisors have compiled a list of what a falling operation is expected to have completed and have readily available to all crew members onsite.

[Block Plan:](#)

- A site-specific and current Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
- A site-specific and current First Aid Site Assessment that meets OHS regulations for the site and includes listing the available equipment and personnel available to help in case of an emergency.
- Initial safety meeting and site falling plan that includes safe work procedures for hand falling and bucking, communication, qualified assistance, and alternate falling methods available.
- Site specific hazard assessment for each active opening in the Block Plan that identifies all, general site hazards, their level of risk to the workers, and the planned action to control them.
- Hazard report to document any specific hazards, the level of risk for the workers and the planned action to control the hazard. This includes using a Corrective Action Log (CAL).
- Changes to Workplace Plan – documenting changes to the falling plan.
- A daily Falling Plan that has been reviewed and signed by the fallers before starting work for the day.
- All workers and visitors must have a site orientation which includes having them review and sign off on the Block Plan.



Faller Inspections:

- Completed at intervals appropriate to the risk for each faller in the timber and terrain they are working in. (OH&S Regulation 26.22.1(b))
- Inspections are based on observations of the fallers working and measured to the acceptable level of BC Faller Training Standard.
- Inspections should include comments, corrective actions and follow up.
- Documentation to show that the supervisor has observed the faller's work and has deemed the faller is qualified to work in the timber and terrain they are being placed in.

Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Report:

- Document weekly progress and training provided to trainee fallers and have records accessible on site. (OH&S Regulation 26.22(4))

Safety Meetings / Tailgate Discussions:

- Documented monthly, weekly or daily safety meetings and discussions.
- Discussions and/or meetings are being held at intervals appropriate to the risk.
- Documentation that provides evidence that safety concerns are being addressed appropriately.

Close call / Near miss reports:

- Close calls and incidents are being reported (anonymously or openly) and discussed to prevent escalation or repeat of the incident.

Resources available on the BCFSC website to support Falling Supervisors:

- [Falling Safety Advocacy Program pamphlet](#)
- [Falling Supervisor Training Course information](#)
- [Falling Forms & Documents & Qualified Assistance](#)

BCFSC has been working with industry on the following initiatives/projects related to supervision. These initiatives will be rolled out to industry starting this fall and continue into 2022.

- Updating the current Falling Supervisor 5-day course to a blended approach of on-line and instructor lead training with input from the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)
- Mentoring of Licensees, Landowners and Prime Contractors on inspecting falling supervision on their worksites
- Mentoring falling supervisors on a risk-based approach to inspecting fallers
- Updating the current Certified Falling Supervisor assessment process to better resemble a competency-based model focusing on gaps and recommendations with input from FTAC
- Updating the Certified Falling Supervisor quality assurance process with input from FTAC



BC Forest Safety

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email faller@bcforestsafe.org or toll-free at 1-877-741-1060.

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