



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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Crush Hazards

AOM: 2021-10-27

Many serious injuries have occurred when a worker has been caught in between two objects. Also called being “in the bight” or in a “pinch point”, these types of crush injuries can easily occur on forestry and manufacturing worksites.

Here are some examples of incidents from WorkSafeBC:

- A forestry processor operator and a mechanic were working on a processor head. The mechanic's service truck was parked on an icy road with a slight slope. The outdoor temperature increased and the ice and snow began to melt. The truck slid downhill, pinning the operator between the service truck and the processor head.
- A hand faller felled a 30-inch-diameter tree in a helicopter logging cutblock. As the faller was bucking the tree (cutting it into log lengths), the butt pivoted, striking and pinning the worker.
- A young worker was crushed between a log loading machine and a road cutslope. [Link to Incident Investigation](#)
- A forklift struck a 12-foot-high stack of lumber stored near a conveyor. The falling lumber struck one worker and pushed the conveyor against a lumber press. A second worker was injured by being pinned between the conveyor and the press.



Additional Information:

- Identify the hazard areas for each piece of equipment and make sure all workers are aware of how to communicate with the equipment operator to move through these hazardous areas safely. Be aware that hazard areas can change due to terrain, slope and other factors. Reassess these hazard areas as conditions change and make sure everyone on site is aware of the changes.





SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

- Ensure that all workers wear high-vis personal protective equipment (PPE) while working around mobile equipment.
- Vehicles are often left running to warm up or light up work areas. Idling vehicles must be secured properly including parking in a level location, automatic transmissions put into park and emergency brake engaged. Use secondary methods to secure vehicles, like wheel chocks or blocking, which will prevent the vehicle from moving if brakes or other equipment fails.
- For vehicles with standard transmissions left in neutral, engaging the emergency brake to keep them in place is essential to securing it properly. Use wheel chocks and test emergency brakes regularly to make sure they work properly.
- Fatigue can cause routine tasks to turn into high-risk activities. When tired, steps can be forgotten and hazards can be missed or not understood. Recognize when you or your coworkers are fatigued and take steps to support good decision-making.
- When working alone, use a check-in procedure. Even when stepping out of your cab or pickup to do a quick job, it's advisable to let someone know. Incidents can happen in an instant and having someone who is aware of your location and can take action in the case of an incident or emergency is important.
- Any object on a slope or at height has stored potential energy caused by gravity. A change in the worksite can cause an object to fall, roll or move suddenly and may cause a crush injury.
- Hands and fingers have a high potential for getting caught in or under objects or in machinery. Pause and assess the situation before placing your hands or fingers in spaces that could close quickly. Lock out and secure objects and machinery to prevent these types of incidents.

Additional Resources

- Alert: [Industrial Worksite Vehicle Incident](#)
- Alert: [Working Safely Under Vehicles](#)
- Incident Investigation: [Worker fatally injured by trailer when truck reversed](#)





SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[New Wood Products Manufacturing Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Training](#) – Free, interactive online training for sawmills and other wood products manufacturing operations.

[New Hazard and Risk Video](#) – Watch this short video explaining the difference between hazards and risks.

[Healthy Worker Resources- Alcohol](#) – BCSFC has developed a posters, crew talks and backgrounder to help workers learn about safe limits for alcohol.

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

November 22 | [Small Employer OHS Training – Campbell River](#)

This two-day course is about occupational health and safety for small employers working in the forest sector. Participants should be active in their company's business operations and have knowledge of their safety program, as they will become the company's internal auditor and submit their company's audit.

November 25 | [Forest Supervisor Training – Communication – Campbell River](#)

This one day classroom workshop will help supervisors and managers improve their communication skills at work.

November 26 | [Forest Supervisor Training – Leadership – Campbell River](#)

This one day classroom workshop will help participants understand their strengths and weaknesses, and to recognize how their personal style impacts the workers they supervise.

November 26 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Kamloops](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

December 3 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.





SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

December 15 | [Joint Health and Safety Committee Training – Campbell River](#)

This course provides Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) fundamentals for both forestry harvesting operations and wood products manufacturing operations.

Refer to the [Training section of our website](#) for more information on upcoming classroom training and costs.

Online Training

BCFSC offers a wide selection of free online training courses: Basic Forest Worker, Phase Congestion, Professional Industry Driver, Resource Road Driver, Serious Incident Investigation and more. Click here to self-enroll: [Online Learning Centre – BC Forest Safety Council](#)

Worker Assessment and Training

Each forestry occupation requires different knowledge and skillsets to perform the job at hand. BCFSC worked with industry to develop competency-based standards, training and assessment tools to help employers evaluate workers and complete on-the-job training.

Check out our [FREE online training and assessment forms](#) for Basic Forest Workers, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting and Road Building.



BC Forest Safety

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