

FOREST SAFETY

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It is with much sorrow that we report the passing of Pam Agnew, BCFSC's former Communications Director and Editor of the Forest Safety News. Pam made the personal choice to pass away peacefully on Friday, October 29th due to complications with cancer. Pam worked with the BC Forest Safety Council from 2013 to 2019 and her passion and dedication to safety made a significant impact to our industry.



This issue of the Forest Safety News is dedicated to Pam. Her legacy is this publication; it was her brainchild. Pam knew the importance of sharing safety news and information and she developed the Forest Safety Newsletter (FSN) as a way of gathering stories and safety news from around BC and providing one place where it could be accessed by all with information focussed on all areas of BC forestry including falling, transportation, SAFE companies, health and wellness and wood products manufacturing. Her vision of a newsletter dedicated to forestry safety has now become one of BC's leading safety publications with over 7,000 subscribers and readers from all over BC, Canada and the world.

Pam was also integral to the annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference and the Interior Safety Conference. Reporting on each session with great detail and conveying conference highlights with meticulous summaries, she thoroughly captured the sentiment of each presentation. These summaries allowed all those who were unable to attend the conferences in person to still learn from the valuable information from the presenters and feel part of the action from the candid photos she captured of the networking participants and engaging presenters.

Pam was a great photographer and her photos are still used in the development of BCFSC online training courses and other resource materials. The field photos she took on a site visit with WorkSafeBC and a local logging and road building contractor depicted the reality of a forestry worksite and captured the authenticity of the work. To this day, those photos help us convey and demonstrate what a forestry worksite is really like and are used in almost every online course developed by BCFSC and also in many other communication materials we produce.

Always the consummate professional, Pam invested a high degree of skill and passion into her work. Her impact on this organization and anyone she touched reaches far and wide. She will forever be fondly remembered and will be sorely missed by all.

On behalf of BCFSC, I would like to extend our heart felt condolences to Pam's family and friends. Pam set an example that will continue to be an inspiration for all of us and her legacy will continue in our efforts to achieve of our vision to see every forestry worker goes home safe – everyday.

Rob Moonen, CEO 🌲

Welcome to the Winter edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at editor@bcforestsafe.org or call 1-877-741-1060.

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*Rest In Peace
Pam Agnew*

20/10/1964 - 29/10/2021

Photo Credit: Pam Agnew



What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since September 2021. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Wood Products Manufacturing Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Training – BCFSC has launched a free interactive online training program to help workers in wood products manufacturing facilities identify, assess and control common hazards. This training was developed in partnership with the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG).

Understanding Hazards and Risks Video – Ever wonder what the difference is between a risk and a hazard? Check out the new BCFSC video that explains it in more detail.

BCFSC Seeks Industry Input on Load Securement and Molly Failures – We're inviting log haulers and industry to share their feedback by taking our two surveys on Load Securement and Molly Failures.

New BCFSC Healthy Worker Topic – If you or your co-worker are struggling with alcohol use, check out our newest healthy worker resource and learn more about assessing your alcohol intake and where to turn for help if you need it.

Training Calendar – Our 2021 Training Calendar offers both in-classroom (with COVID-19 safety protocols in place) and online courses.

Safety Alerts – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** – School bus and log truck incident
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – click on the link to see the latest weekly alert

To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)

Industry Links

WorkSafeBC Announcements – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more.

WorkSafeBC Enews – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more. 🎧

A Report from the 2nd Annual BC First Nations Forestry Conference and 1st Annual WorkSafeBC Prevention Services Conference

Last June, the BCFSC sponsored the 2nd annual BC First Nations Forestry Conference. The theme of conference was "First Nations as Full Partners" and was broadcast virtually from the unceded territory of Snuneymuxw First Nation. A total of 420 participants attended the three-day event, with representation from over 100 First Nations, and 76 non-Indigenous organizations (industry, post-secondary institutions and provincial government).

The conference was planned as an opportunity to bring together industry, government and First Nations to discuss changes to forest policy and

legislation and workforce partnerships that can support First Nations as full partners in the forest sector.

Over the three days, speakers from First Nations communities and businesses, government, industry and post-secondary institutions shared experiences. They provided insight into changes needed to increase First Nations involvement in the workforce and their role in the governance and stewardship of forest lands and resources, that includes access to viable tenure opportunities. The intent of these presentations was to enhance

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Happy Holidays
BC Forest Safety

Extending you our very best for a **safe** and happy holiday season.

BCFSC Holiday Office Hours

Friday, Dec 24	8am – 5pm
Monday, Dec 27	CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec 28	CLOSED
Wednesday, Dec 29	8am – 5pm
Friday, Dec 31	8am – 5pm
Monday, Jan 3	CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan 4	Regular hours resume

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knowledge and insight into meaningful participation of First Nations in the forest sector to help advance reconciliation and facilitate a climate of investment based on sustainable resource development.

Review the **2021 BC First Nations Conference Report** for yourself and save the date for next years conference “What’s Changed? A Report Card” scheduled for June 15-16, 2022.

The BC First Nations Forestry Council also held their 3rd annual Indigenous Forestry Career Fair, September 23 - 24, 2021. This virtual two-day event called FORESTRY CONNECT 2021, offered Indigenous students and youth participants a unique space to focus on skills, training, education and employment in the BC Forestry Sector, while exploring opportunities to join the workforce. This year’s event was divided up to highlight four BC regions - Coastal, Central, Eastern and Northern to help address the variety of forestry work, operations and opportunities that occur across the province.

On October 13 & 14, 2021, WorkSafeBC Prevention Services hosted its first annual virtual conference. It was attended by WorkSafeBC Prevention Services employees who deliver services for the prevention mandate to engage employers and workers to reduce risk and keep workplaces healthy and safe through education, consultation and enforcement. This two-day event featured a lineup of speakers aligned with the conference theme - Connect. Adapt. Innovate. All experts in their fields, the speakers addressed topics on change management, safety culture, behavioral insights, resiliency, resistance, adapting through innovation and more.

Eight BC Health and Safety Associations (HSAs) were also invited to virtually exhibit during the WorkSafeBC Prevention Services Conference with mini sites that featured videos, web links, pdf documents and contact information for attendees to learn more about these organizations and were provided the ability to connect through live chat options, email or appointment scheduling with HSA conference contacts. 📍

Save the Date – Scheduled BC Forestry Conferences & Events for 2022

The global pandemic changed the way we attend large group conferences and events in 2020 and 2021. Some forest sector events and conferences were held virtually while some were cancelled altogether. For now, 2022 will be another year of unpredictable in-person attendance for conferences. Although many industry events have not been scheduled due to the unpredictability of health restrictions, we do have a list of some confirmed conference dates for 2022.

*Please note: Scheduled in-person 2022 conferences could be modified based on BC Health Authority restrictions at the time of the conference. 📍

Conference	Scheduled Dates	Location	Registration
78th Annual Truck Loggers Association	Jan 12 - 14, 2022	Vancouver, BC	www.tla.ca/convention
19th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum	Jan 18 - 20, 2022	Prince George, BC	www.bcnaturalresourcesforum.com
2022 Western Forestry Contractors’ Association Conference, Trade Show and AGM	Feb 9 - 11, 2022	Virtual	www.wfca.ca
Association of BC Forest Professionals	Feb 9 - 11, 2022	Nanaimo, BC	www.abcfp.ca
Council of Forest Industries Convention	April 27 - 29, 2022	Vancouver, BC	www.cofi.org
3rd Annual BC First Nations Forestry Conference	June 15 - 16, 2022	TBD	www.forestrycouncil.ca

Workplace Bullying and Harassment has Gone Virtual

Remote working can be a great option for some of us by offering greater flexibility in our workdays but it's not without its challenges. It may seem logical to assume that instances of workplace hostility and harassment are down because we're working from home but that's simply not the case. The explosion of people working from home has led to an uptick in virtual harassment and cyber-bullying on virtual meeting platforms and more.

Microaggressions between workers can be common in an office but can be handled more efficiently when a supervisor is more accessible in an office environment. With remote workers connecting through digital technology, workplace harassment can be more difficult for supervisors to manage the private chats, video calls or virtual meetings. Pandemic fatigue and isolation can cause people's tension and stress to rise - compelling us to forget office etiquette. These factors can also allow more of us to dismiss or ignore inappropriate comments or even misconduct when they occur in a virtual setting, especially in group settings where it can be tricky to react discretely. Incidents may not even be reported as employees may be unsure about what counts as harassment in a virtual environment and how they can take it up with their supervisor or HR department.

Virtual harassment should not take a back seat when it comes to providing safe working conditions. Employers can make a shift in the right direction by understanding how and why employees are experiencing this type of harassment to better support staff and inspire a collaborative online work environment.

So how can we tackle this new reality?

1. Take some proactive prevention steps. Offer anti-harassment awareness training to educate everyone in your organization including senior management, supervisors and employees about the different types of virtual workplace harassment and help them understand their part in keeping it at bay while working from home.

2. Review your anti-harassment policy to establish a safe online workplace. Ask yourself these questions:
 - Does the policy apply equally to staff working from the office and at home?
 - Does it contain guidelines for internal and external communications including spoken and written words in emails, text messages, group chat messages, video meetings, etc.?
 - What is the procedure for employees to confidentially report experiences, concerns and issues?
 - Tolerance for virtual harassment as well as all other types of harassment?

Harassment will not fade away on its own no matter where people are working. As workplaces become more dynamic, organizations can address the growing issue of virtual harassment and misconduct and help curb these issues by laying some ground rules and holding people accountable. A safe work environment is more than just preventing injuries or the spread of disease. It is about making employee well-being a priority where employees feel secure and experience a positive co-working environment that encourages respect for everyone no matter where they do their jobs. 🌱



December 2021 Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

WorkSafeBC will be holding a public hearing for **proposed amendments** to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hearing will be held virtually and will be livestreamed in two sessions on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, from **11am to 1pm** and from **3pm to 5pm**.

The virtual hearings will cover proposed changes to the following parts of the OHS Regulation:

- Part 3, Rights and Responsibilities — Reassignment of refused work
- Parts 1, 16, and 28, Housekeeping Amendments

Go to the WorkSafeBC **proposed amendments** link to view the details on how to access public hearings live on December 8th.

Participating in the public hearing process

WorkSafeBC welcomes feedback on the proposed amendments. All feedback received will be presented to WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors for their consideration. Feedback can be provided in the following ways:

- 1. Submit feedback online or by email**
Written submissions can be made online until 4:30pm on Friday, December 10, 2021, via worksafebc.com or by email to ohsregfeedback@worksafebc.com.
- 2. Register to speak at the hearing by phone**
To register, call (604) 232-7744 or toll-free in BC at 1-866-614-7744. One presentation from an organization or individual will be permitted. 🗣️

Proposed Policy Amendments on Determining Workplace Status

WorkSafeBC's Policy, Regulation and Research Division is releasing a discussion paper on determining workplace status with options and draft policy to stakeholders for comment.

"Workplace status" refers to whether someone is an employer, worker or independent operator. A person's status defines the rights and responsibilities the person has under the Workers Compensation Act, including compulsory coverage for workers, and obligations of employers to pay assessments into the accident fund.

At issue are changes to WorkSafeBC's workplace status policies to ensure the policies remain up to date. Changes are necessary to align policy with the Workers Compensation Act and the common law, and to enable WorkSafeBC to make decisions which reflect the changing nature of work in BC.

The **discussion paper** with options on proposed policy on **determining workplace status** is now available to stakeholders for comment. You're invited to provide feedback on the options until the consultation period ends at 4:30pm on Monday, January 10, 2022.

Visit the **WorkSafeBC webpage** to find out more about how to provide feedback and to read the draft policy amendments. 🗣️

New OHS Amendments Come into Effect December 1, 2021

WorkSafeBC recently announced new and revised amendments to several areas of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation. These amendments will come into effect on December 1, 2021 and will apply to the following areas:

- **Combustible and flammable liquids (Parts 1, 5, 22, and 23)**
- **Ionizing radiation — dose limits for the lens of the eye (Part 7)**
- **Traffic control (Part 18)**
- **Blasting operations (Part 21)**
- **Logging truck load securement (Part 26)** — for more information, read the article in the Transportation Section.
- **Housekeeping amendments (Parts 14, 24, and 25)** — Part 25 refers to Industrial Camps Regulations.

For a more detailed look at these changes, download the **WorkSafeBC overview**. Additional information on each amendment will be posted on WorkSafeBC's **Searchable OHS Regulation & related materials** page once the amendments take effect on December 1st. This information will include a primer for each amendment with links to any new and revised OHS guidelines. 🗣️