



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

BC's Floods and Resource Road Risk

AOM: 2021-11-23

BC has recently experienced a catastrophic flooding event causing significant impact to the province's public infrastructure and forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes and communities. Warnings/evacuation orders are still in effect for many areas with many road closures still in place.

With the amount of work that needs to be done on highways, public infrastructure and in communities, many resource roads across BC have not yet been assessed for safe use. Industry workers may be planning to travel into areas where there is a high potential for washed-out roads, landslides, and flooding. More rain is forecasted in the coming days and weeks with potential to cause additional environmental concerns and damage.

This alert highlights the flood, washout, and landslide risk on BC resource roads. Before you or your crews head out, consider the following:

- Brief your crew on the risks of flooding and landslides, especially those who may not have experienced flood conditions before. This includes layout crews and road maintenance crews who may be working on repairing the damage caused by severe weather.
- When planning work activities, consider the potential road damage and the potential for landslides. Avoid work near watercourses and steep areas that may be prone to slides.
- Road washouts can occur quickly and without warning and could potentially wash out behind crews, leaving them stranded.
- Field crews often cross and work adjacent to streams and rivers. If possible, postpone work in storm-affected areas until conditions can be assessed for safety.



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
Central BC: 2666 Queensway, Prince George, BC, V2L 1N2
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafety.org



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- Soil next to bridges and culverts may be eroded by heavy rains and high stream flows and often this erosion cannot be easily seen. Be cautious and assess crossings from a safe distance before driving over them.
- It is not recommended to travel at night during flood conditions. Darkness and limited visibility can reduce the ability to spot washouts in time to stop safely.
- Heavy rains can cause soil to become rapidly saturated with water which can result in landslides. Fast flowing streams and rivers can also erode the base of slopes causing them to slide. Avoid work in steep areas until conditions improve.
- Crews responsible for inspecting and repairing roads and water crossings need to be extremely careful. Don't risk getting too close and being caught up in fast rising or fast flowing water.
- Make sure field staff are trained in rainfall monitoring/shutdown procedures which include collecting rain accumulation data, interpretation of the data and making informed decisions to shut down or keep working.

BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[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).

[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 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.

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



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BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

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.

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.

