



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Helicopter Long Line Safety

AOM: 2022-01-22

Helicopters are an important part of many forestry operations. One of their functions is using long lines to move equipment or cargo.

Recently, a pilot was injured while landing a helicopter used in an aerial tree topping operation. After placing the tree topper onto a trailer, the suspension cables carrying the tree trimmer snagged on the trailer's mounted fuel tank causing the helicopter to roll and strike the ground.

The following list features some safety precautions for ground crews and pilots to consider when using long lines.

Helicopter Long Line Safety Information:

- Develop a good plan prior to the helicopter's arrival. Scout all the sites, note the hazards and check in with the pilot to confirm the plan will work.
- Hold a safety meeting with the pilot and any ground crew before the lifting starts. Review the plan, discuss any hazards on site or along the flight path and how those hazards will be controlled. For example: dangerous trees or difficult terrain.
- Establish good radio communications between the pilot and ground crew. Hand signals should also be included in the communication plan and mutually agreed upon in case the radio communication doesn't work.
- Rotor wash can cause loose objects to fly up and strike people or the helicopter. Secure or remove all loose items from the site. Wear eye protection to keep dust and debris out. Use a hardhat with a chin strap to keep it from blowing off.





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- Working under a helicopter can be a noisy and stressful environment. Make sure to work slowly and carefully.
- Ground crew should act as another set of eyes for the pilot, notifying them of any hazard(s) that they cannot see. For example: brush or trees near the tail rotor, snagged long lines or other problems in the pilot's blind spots.
- Don't assume that the pilot can see all the hazards that you can. The pilot will be focused on controlling the helicopter, so don't be afraid to let them know what you see. The pilot will appreciate the extra information.
- Ground crews must be trained properly to hook up the load while the helicopter is hovering. After the load is hooked up, the worker must move into the clear, and then signal it is safe to lift the load.
- Have more than one pre-determined escape route from the site in case the helicopter has difficulty with the load.
- During a helicopter lift, static electricity can build up and discharge through the line to a worker on the ground. Procedures should be in place to discharge built up electricity prior to the worker touching the line.



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
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Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafe.org



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BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

WorkSafeBC - On January 7, 2022, the provincial health officer announced an order requiring employers to reinstate those site specific, prescriptive COVID-19 safety plans to address the elevated risk currently facing us with the Omicron variant. WorkSafeBC has provided detailed information on how to re-activate your COVID-19 safety plan to ensure that they are current and aligned with guidance and orders from the provincial health officer. [Visit WorkSafeBC](#) for more information.

Association of BC Forest Professionals - 2022 Virtual Forestry Conference & AGM Feb 2 – 4, 2022. [Register today.](#)

Western Forestry Contractors' Association Conference – 41st annual (second virtual) conference Feb 9 - 11, 2022. [Register today.](#)

Missed the Truck Logger's Association Conference? [Access the sessions on-demand](#) and catch up on what you missed.

Road Safety At Work – Distracted Driving Webinar. Distracted driving involves more than just phones. Road Safety at Work, BC Highway Patrol and ICBC are hosting a webinar on distracted driving on Thursday, February 24th from 10 – 11am. [Register today.](#)

The Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC), BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) and Dalhousie University have released their final report [Analysis of Deflagration Isolation in Wood Pellet Production for Safer Operation](#) in the Canadian Biomass Magazine.

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

Note: BC Forest Safety requires full vaccination (2 doses) to attend in-person training courses. This is to support COVID-19 prevention measures from the Provincial Health Officer, especially related to the recent spread of the omicron variant. This requirement is in effect until further notice.

March 7-8 | [Small Employer OHS – Haida Gwaii](#)

This two-day course is about occupational health and safety for small employers working in the forest sector.



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March 9 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Haida Gwaii](#)

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

March 10-11 | [Forest Supervisor Due Diligence – Haida Gwaii](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

March 14-15 | [Small Employer OHS – Campbell River](#)

This two-day course is about occupational health and safety for small employers working in the forest sector.

March 21-25 | [Falling Supervisor – Campbell River](#)

Participants will learn the roles and responsibilities of a falling supervisor and will become familiar with processes used by a falling supervisor to support their due diligence.

March 25 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Kamloops](#)

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

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

Online Training

New Online Training – Leadership and Professionalism for Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisors and Stand Tender training are available at no charge for BC forest companies. 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.



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