



# SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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## Hand Tool Safety

AOM: 2022-02-14

Jessie's excavator had been down all day and she needed to get it back in action. She grabbed the sledgehammer to drive the track pin back into place but forgot her safety glasses on the dash of the truck. She started hammering the pin in place and suddenly felt like something was in her eye. The first aider confirmed she had a piece of metal lodged in his eye and needed to go to the hospital immediately! Even after several operations, Jessie's vision was never the same.

Hand tools are used on a regular basis for many tasks like using a jack to change a tire or an axe to blaze a tree. Often, we don't think twice before grabbing one of these simple tools but there are important safety considerations to keep in mind.

### Hand Tool Safety Information:

- Wear your PPE! Gloves can improve grip and prevent hand injuries and safety glasses are quick and easy to put on and can prevent life changing eye injuries.
- Choose the right tool for the job. For example, use the right size of wrench to prevent slips and damage to the tool and/or equipment. Don't use a screwdriver when a pry-bar is the right tool for the job.
- Beware of using hammers on metal parts or objects. Use soft metal hammers when there is a risk of metal shards breaking off and striking workers.
- Even simple hand tools need to be inspected and maintained. Examine your tools for excessive wear, cracks and dull edges.
- Hand tools can be simple to use but proper training and supervision is still required. Don't assume that everyone knows the proper techniques for all tools. This is especially important when working with new and young workers – what is obvious to you may be new to them.





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- Overuse injuries are common with the repetitive use of hand tools. Get help with jobs that may cause excessive strain - especially if you're not used to that type of manual work.
- Hand tools are often used in situations when something goes wrong such as jacking a stuck vehicle, repairing broken down machinery or fighting a wildfire. These types of emergency conditions often have a higher risk of injury.
- Hand and finger injuries are very common when using hand tools. Take a moment to assess the task and ways that an injury might occur. Don't stick your hand or fingers in pinch or crush points.
- Know when to ask for help and turn it over to the professionals. Mechanics, tow truck drivers and your supervisor have access to specialized tools and knowledge to make the job easier and safer.
- Take your time! Rushing leads to missing important steps like wearing PPE.



## Resources:

- [Hazard Alert – Use a soft metal hammer on hard steel](#)
- [Hand Tools - General Hand Tool Operation: OSH Answers \(ccohs.ca\)](#)
- [Steel shard in worker's eye a reminder of need for protective eyewear](#)

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BC Forest Safety

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## BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

### **BCFSC Latest News & Resources**

**[New Switchback Video – Planning, Layout and Construction](#)** – This video illustrates key messages for the correct planning, engineering and building of a switchback and the value the forest industry places on ensuring resource roads are safe for all users.

**Working on Live Equipment Information Meeting:** On **Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from 9:30am-10:00am**, WorkSafeBC's OHS Consultation & Education Services department and the BCFSC are co-sponsoring an online information presentation outlining the specific focus of a WorkSafeBC Occupation Safety Officer during a plant inspection. Meeting participants will be provided with a Q&A session after the presentation. Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone using this link: <https://meet.goto.com/363011461> or dial in from your phone toll free: 1 888 455-1389 use Access Code: 363-011-461

**Changed your contact information?** Let us know so we can keep our records up-to-date. Contact us by email at [info@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:info@bcforestsafe.org) or call us at 1-877-741-1060. Having the right contact information on file is the key to ensuring we can communicate with you – especially when it comes to your audit.

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### **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 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.

#### **March 31-April 1 | [Forest Supervisor Due Diligence – Prince George](#)**

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



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**April 11** | [Forest Supervisor Communication – Campbell River](#)

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

**April 12** | [Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism – 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.

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

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## 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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