



## BCFSC Adds Two More Courses to the Wood Products Manufacturers Supervisor Training Program

BCFSC has released two more courses in the Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor Training Program. Four of the six courses are now available through BCFSC's Online Learning Centre.

### Currently Available

- **NEW Orientations, Training and Skill Development**
- **NEW Hazard Identification, Inspections and Incident Investigation**
- **Effective Communication**
- **Leadership and Professionalism**

### Coming Soon

- Cornerstones of Supervision
- Due Diligence

### Learning Outcomes for **Orientations, Training and Skill Development** are:

- Explain the requirements to provide orientations for new workers, returning workers, young workers and others
- Describe the requirements for training
- Assess and document a worker's competencies

### Learning Outcomes for **Hazard Identification, Inspections and Incident Investigation** are:

- Identify hazards, assess risks and determine controls
- Explain the process of inspections and worker assessments
- Explain the importance of reporting incidents and close calls
- Describe reporting and investigation requirements

Visit BCFSC's website to learn more or to enroll in Orientations, Training and Skill Development and Hazard Identification, Inspections, and Incident Investigation. 🌐

## MAG SAFE Auditor – Sunshine Borsato

With hazardous equipment and machinery at every turn, wood fibre manufacturing is undeniably a high-risk sector of BC forestry. Large equipment, combustible dust, chemicals, mobile equipment, hand tools, environmental conditions, inclement weather or isolated work areas are just a few high-risk considerations in sawmill and other wood fibre manufacturing operations that can cause unsafe conditions and can elevate the risk for serious injuries or even fatalities.

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is committed to promoting the need for a strong safety culture to help reduce the potential for injury or disease. We know it can be challenging to identify the best approach for motivating your crew to be more safety conscious but managing the risks and hazards in your workplace is crucial to ensuring every worker gets home safe, every day.

Lacerations, amputations, severed fingers, falls, slips and trips are only a handful of potential injuries sawmill workers are at risk from. Regular inspections to buildings, yards, tools, equipment, machinery and work methods

and practices can help prevent the development of unsafe working conditions. And engaging with workers in regular safety meetings, partnered inspections, developing an open culture that encourages near-miss and incident reporting and appointing an approachable safety champion is a good start to maintaining a health and safety program that can create a safer and more efficient workplace.

To assist wood fibre manufacturing build solid safety programs, the BCFSC has dedicated manufacturing safety advisors to help mitigate risks and identify potential hazards through a safety audit program. Our MAG SAFE auditors are experts in their field and have dedicated their careers to safety.

In this edition of Forest Safety News, we are featuring Sunshine Borsato, one of our three MAG SAFE auditors. She has 25 years experience working in safety within the forest industry, 15 of those as an auditor for the BC Forest Safety Council and other organizations. In addition to her role as a safety auditor, she also has a consulting firm with

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three other safety professionals. They work with clients in logging, silviculture and construction providing training, auditing and safety program development.

Sunshine is committed to creating health and safety programs to meet the specific needs of each company she works with and creating simple techniques for effective safety compliance. “My favorite part of the job is working with clients to implement safety improvements that will provide practical solutions and have a valuable impact. This is what my partners and I do best.”

We asked Sunshine about her Top Five Tips for keeping workers safe on the job and ensure a company’s safety program is realistic and manageable for everyone.

1. Promoting safety and production equally: The most important part of any safety improvement is to implement something that works for your company, so it becomes a tool that helps your company perform better, measure safety, practice due diligence, and hopefully create efficiencies that help your company’s production or reduce overhead costs as well. Safety and production should go hand in hand and provide more bang for buck should be a genuine business strategy when investing in safety.
2. Putting the super in supervisor: Not simply going through the motions of supervising but training supervisors to be even more effective when they are out watching the work. Supervisors should ask questions like why are they doing it that way? Why did they do this before they did that? What do they do when something goes wrong? It is amazing how often this leads to recognizing a weak work practice that has become common place or a missing training element prior to an incident occurring. Correcting work behavior and not assuming everyone knows the right way to perform safely is an important supervisor role.
3. Develop a system for persistent follow up: Following every action, recommendation, and suggestion to ensure they are complete and following up that safety measures are effectively working is such an important piece, but it takes a lot of time and diligence to persist. Adding these pieces into a system that already works for you like regular safety meetings can be an easier way of managing this task rather than developing separate tools for follow up.
4. Training, then more training, and still more training: There is no greater pay off for a company than a solid base of training and consistently providing more training. This clearly communicates expectations for performing the work and provides a way for supervisors to measure the work performance while engaging all personnel in performing better every time. Training also sets a tone for the company safety culture. Look at different forms of training, different training methods, and additional ways to deliver training based on employee feedback that will also engage employees while providing an abundance of due diligence. So often when good training is provided, attendees and supervisors will report that they were surprised at what they did not previously know. That makes the whole experience worthwhile. 🧠