

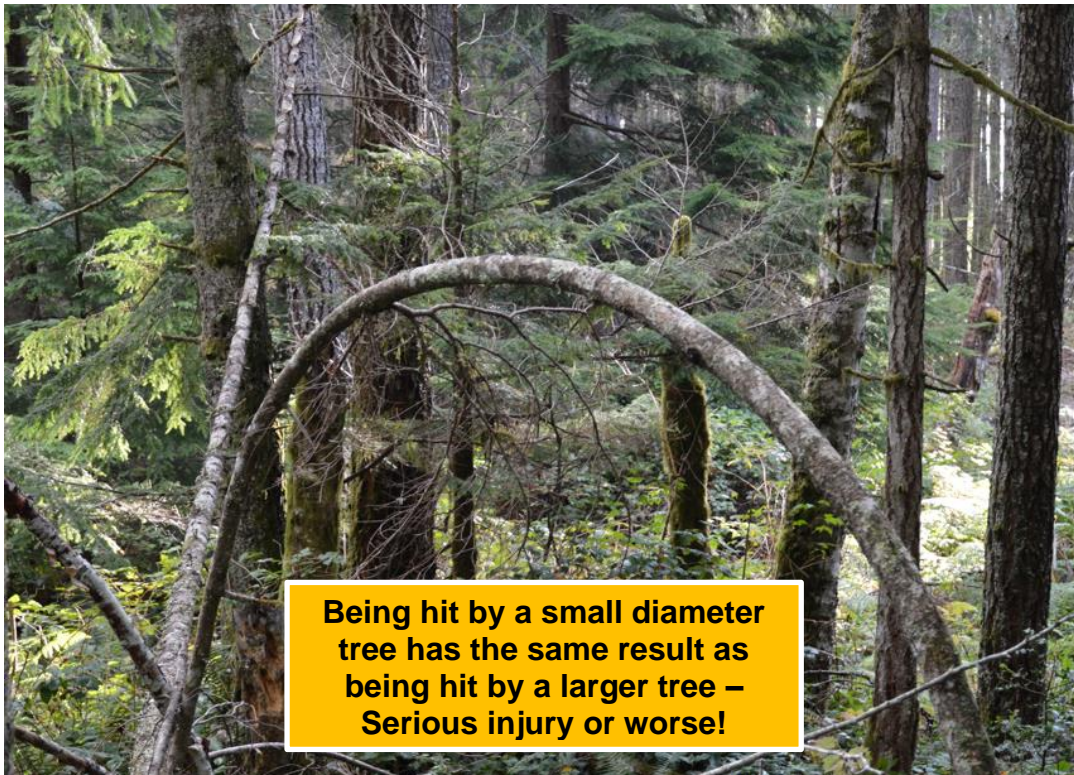


SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Small Diameter Tree Hazards

AOM: 2022-05-17



Safety Information:

- Don't overlook small diameter trees, they are easy to miss and potentially dangerous. Take the time to complete ongoing, thorough hazard and risk assessments of your worksite, including a 360° assessment of each tree before placing any falling cuts.
- Branches, treetops or other debris falling from the canopy can cause serious injuries. This debris may be small but when falling from height, it can hit with tremendous force. Assess the canopy thoroughly and look up frequently to reassess.
- Falling trees over 15cm in diameter at 30cm height requires a certified faller. A certified faller may also be needed for smaller trees with a significant lean, bend or other hazard. Having a certified faller available also reduces the temptation for unqualified workers to fall the occasional tree that is over the size limit.



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 | bcforestsafesafe.org



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- Extreme weather, strong winds or heavy snow loads can cause trees of all sizes to come down.
- Some trees can be extremely hazardous to cut due to brittle wood which is common in deciduous trees or frozen, dry or burnt wood. These trees are hazardous for many forestry operations, not just falling. Silviculture or trucking operations near standing timber are good examples.
- Barber chairs occur when a tree under tension splits with the grain as it is being cut, rather than across the grain as intended. Barber chairs can happen with lightning speed and are extremely dangerous.
- Deciduous trees, such as alder and maple, are a particular hazard and are much more likely to barber chair than conifers. Injuries and fatalities have occurred when a worker decides - "It's just an alder, I can fall it." Experienced fallers consider deciduous trees to be the most dangerous.
- Live trees that have recently been bent over are more likely to barber chair than dead trees that have been bent for a long time.
- Watch out for spring poles – small trees that are bent over but not broken. They are often under extreme tension and can release very quickly if disturbed or cut incorrectly.
- Wear your hardhat for all activities when there are overhead hazards. When running a chainsaw, wear all appropriate personal protective equipment: boots, gloves, protective pants, hi-vis clothing, and a hard hat with earmuffs and face screen.

Resources:

- [BCFSC Alert on Small Danger Trees](#)
- [Video – How to Cut a Spring Pole](#)

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BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[BCFSC FIRS Lite App](#) – The **BCFSC FIRS App** or **Forest Industry Reporting System** is a FREE resource available to all BCFSC Members. The first stage of the **BCFSC FIRS App** is a **lite version** and is now live and ready to use. It allows companies to submit and track incident reporting by submitting answers to five simple questions and uploading supporting photos into the record. It also includes a Supervisor's Queue allowing supervisors, safety professionals, and company owners to review submitted records and extract important information from the report such as the severity or nature of a reported injury.

The new lite version is available through the App store for Android and iOS devices. Simply go to the App store on your device and search for BCFSC FIRS to download the FREE App. To access the BCFSC FIRS Quick Add App, you will require a FIRS account. For security purposes, BCFSC will need to confirm your SAFE Certified Company first by emailing your registration request to FIRS@bcforestsafe.org. Registrations will be reviewed by BCFSC and once approved, your account will be established. An invitation email will be sent to your inbox where you can then set up your FIRS account with your registration details.

[Forest Safety Newsletter](#) – June |Summer 2022 Issue is now available. Download a copy to share with your crew.

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

June 7-8 | [Forest Supervisor Due Diligence – Campbell River](#)

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

June 13-17 | [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.

June 15-16 | [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.

June 23 | [Forest Supervisor Communication – Vernon](#)

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



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June 24 | [Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism – Vernon](#)

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.

Online Training

Phase Congestion Training— This free interactive online training course is available to help supervisors and workers better understand how to safely integrate phases and prevent phase congestion. 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.

