



# Falling



## Faller Training with the BCFSC – 180 Day Period

By Scott Rushton, Lead Falling Safety Advisor

I often hear that the process of getting through all the required steps and training on the path to becoming a certified faller with the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) can be a very daunting and challenging task. My reply is “It’s supposed to be!”.

As we all know, hand falling is a very dangerous job with a high injury rate. The forest sector is very diverse with respect to timber types and terrain across the province. Our goal is to provide the most prepared candidate as possible to industry at the completion of the training program.

After a candidate has completed 30-days of one-on-one training with an approved BCFSC trainer, they are required to work as a faller trainee in industry. Recent changes to the program now require faller trainees to submit a minimum of 20 acceptable and approved Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports showing, at minimum, 90 days’ work experience in a forestry setting. During this time period, trainees will also be required to take part in a minimum of three (3) quality assurance checks from a BCFSC External Verifier. The purpose of these quality assurance checks will be to ensure the training is in compliance with OHS Regulations and the BC Faller Training Standard as well as to offer any guidance and support to the trainer and trainee if needed.

It is extremely important that training completed in an industry setting is documented correctly. This is something that I feel can sometimes be overlooked and downplayed by industry.

OHS regulation 26.22(4) states:

(4) The person supervising a trainee faller under subsection (2) (c) must

- a) evaluate the trainee’s work on a weekly basis,
- b) keep records of all evaluations done in respect of the trainee, and

- c) if, at the end of the training period, the trainee’s falling activity meets a standard acceptable to the Board, verify in writing that the trainee has demonstrated the competence necessary for certification under subsection (5).

While in the BCFSC’s New Faller Training Program, trainees are required to capture their training evidence on the BCFSC Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Report. This document is available as a fillable pdf on the BCFSC’s website, or can be printed, completed, scanned, and returned via email, mail, or fax. To be in compliance with OHS Regulation, it is very important that these documents show evidence that meaningful training and inspections are being completed weekly. If requested, a copy of these training reports must be made available to a WorkSafeBC officer during a field inspection. For the BCFSC, it is a required document that is used to track the progression of the training as well as show any red flags that may trigger a phone call or quality assurance check.

Currently, I find that this document is often not being completed correctly. We will often receive a report with little to no content; sometimes unsigned by either the trainee or the trainer or both; sometimes a check mark to indicate meeting the Standard in a particular section, however the comment for that

section is conflicting as it indicates the trainee needs more training. It will always raise red flags when on the very first training report, the trainer indicates that the trainee is meeting the BC Faller Training Standard in all parts. I urge the trainers that are completing the training reports to reference the guidance document on the back of the report, to ensure all aspects of the section are in place before putting a mark of meeting. If needed, a sample copy of what would be considered a properly completed training report can be made available.

Starting **January 1, 2023**, the BCFSC will only accept Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports where the training took place within six (6) months of the date the document was submitted. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your reports and the associated timelines.

In closing, I would like to remind all licensees, landowners, prime contractors, employers, and supervisors that if you have a faller trainee working for you on your site, it is your responsibility to ensure that the Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports are being completed in a correct and meaningful manner.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. 🌞

### BCFSC Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Report

# FTAC In-person Meeting

On June 23rd & 24th, the Falling Technical Advisory Committee held its first in-person meeting since the pandemic. Over the course of two days, 30 participants came together in Nanaimo to discuss myriad of topics.

## Day One:

Amenda Kumar from WorkSafeBC gave a Mental Wellness presentation about Psychological Health and Safety and the importance of Resilience and Resources.

Jenny Colman from WorkSafeBC also gave a presentation on Human Factors and the group was given an overview on the new BCFSF FIRS App.

## Day Two:

Terry Anonson from WorkSafeBC gave an update on Forestry High Risk Strategy with updated statistics from June 2022. Chris Miller also provided an update on the BC Falling Training Standard.

There was also a live demo using a fall restraint and fall rescue system for Steep Slope harvesting along with a presentation from Mike Clarkson and Andre Maillet showcasing a draft of the ever-evolving Safe Work Procedures.

To finish the day, the group discussed Danger Tree Blasting and brainstormed on the workplan topics for 2023.

The next FTAC meeting will also be held in-person in September. If you are an FTAC member, look for an invite from the BCFSF Falling Department. 🌲



WorkSafeBC OSO Cindy Fife and FTAC Member Conor Pierce.



BCFSF Lead Falling Safety Advisor Scott Rushton and FTAC Member Mike Davidson.



Amenda Kumar with WorkSafeBC presents on Mental Wellness.



FTAC members take part in the Mental Wellness Presentation.



Andre Maillet and Mike Clarkson of Precise Contract Falling Ltd. provide a demonstration on the two-man fall restraint and fall rescue system they have developed.



# New Faller Training

The spring session of New Faller Training took place in the Lower Adams River area from May 11 – June 12, 2022. Thank you to Jeff Hernan from Western Forest Products for supplying the timber and their ongoing support of the program.

Back row, left to right: Trainees Logan Mengler, Tyler Hewlett, Wade Vanherwaarden and Mitch Wilden. Front row, left to right: Trainers Wayne Miller, Paul McCaffrey, John Jacobsen and Mike Davidson.

2023 New Faller Training Course dates will be available on our website in November. 🌲



## Notification of Changes to Faller Certification

Recently the BCFSC sent letters to all new faller trainees in the 180-day period of their training. The letters were distributed to two groups of people – those that have never submitted a Faller Trainee Weekly Progress and Training Report and those that have.

Those that have never submitted a weekly progress report since the completion of the 30-day New Faller Training Program have until October 31, 2023 to provide the following:

- At minimum, 20 Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports in the two years prior to certification
- The last 5 of these reports must show you are meeting the BC Faller Training Standard in all parts
- Recommendation from your supervisor on the final report
- Application to challenge for Faller Certification

If you are unable to provide any weekly progress reports by October 31, 2023, you will be set as inactive in our system and your New Faller Training Certificate of Completion will expire.

For those new faller trainees that have submitted a weekly progress report since completion of the 30-day New Faller Training Program, please refer to Columns A and B beside.

Column A Certification Approved on or Before October 31, 2023	Column B Certification Approved on or After November 1, 2023
No online training required	Completion of the Faller online learning resources which take approx. 40-60 hrs to complete.
At minimum, 20 approved Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports in the two years prior to certification	At minimum, 20 approved Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports in the two years prior to certification.
Quality assurance visits are not required	Participate in a minimum of 3 quality assurance visits with a BCFSC QST while training in industry, prior to certification.
The last 5 of the 20 Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports must show you are meeting the BC Faller Training Standard in all parts	The last 5 of the 20 Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports must show you are meeting the BC Faller Training Standard in all parts.
Recommendation from your supervisor on the last weekly training report	Recommendation from your supervisor on the last weekly training report.
Application fee to challenge for Faller Certification - \$1250	Application fee to challenge for a Certificate of Qualification, Faller - \$1250 (includes two site visits). Additional visits are the responsibility of the applicant.
A minimum score of 75% on the BC Faller Training Standard Field Examination and Evaluation is required for certification	Undergo a practical field assessment where all the outcomes must be met to receive a Certificate of Qualification, Faller. If gaps are identified during the field assessment, a gap training plan will be put in place, and you will only be reassessed on the gaps.

If you have any questions about your status as a new faller trainee, please contact the BCFSC toll free at 1.877.741.1060 or by email [faller@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafesafe.org). 🌲