



## Year in Review

By Scott Rushton, Lead Falling Safety Advisor

2022 has been a year of development. As the forest industry continues to quickly evolve and progress, it's important for us all to do our best to be proactive with our safety programs. I believe there is always room for improvement in our day-to-day procedures and we should always be challenging ourselves to do better at all levels.

With support, feedback and involvement from industry, we worked on developing an updated and improved version of the current five-day Falling Supervisor Course. The updated course will include a blended approach with online learning components as well as classroom and field days. It will be available in 2023 and will focus on a risk-based approach to Faller Supervision.

In 2021, an updated version of the BC Faller Training Standard was approved for the 30-day New Faller Training Program. In 2022, the focus was on developing and piloting an improved process for the timeframe of day 31 through to faller certification (the 180-day time frame). Up until now, it was felt there had been insufficient support and monitoring of trainees as they navigated their way through the 180-day period. This new process involves a minimum of three quality assurance checks during this time-period on trainers and trainees by a BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) verifier. These checks will help assure trainees are receiving appropriate training and are progressing towards faller certification, as well as providing support and mentoring to trainers and supervisors working with trainees.

The Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) has been discussing Mental Health in the workplace and identified it as a heightened priority for the group. In the past few meetings, they invited experts from WorkSafeBC as well as the Vancouver Island Health

Authority to attend and present to the group on mental health and resilience in the workplace.

One of the presentations was from Dale Horth, a faller who recounted his personal experience struggling with mental health while recovering from a serious workplace accident. Dale's presentation was raw and honest. As awareness around Mental Health continues to grow and the stigma around it starts to shift, FTAC will keep a focus on mental health through 2023.

There has been incredible support from industry this year assisting with the development and implementation of new processes. It's extremely valuable to receive input from all levels as well as from all locations throughout the province. Our sincerest thanks to all those we have engaged with and for taking time out of their busy schedules to assist us.

I would like to personally thank all of you for your passion towards the continual improvement of workplace safety. Stay safe and happy holidays.

### Upcoming New Faller Training for 2023

Two new faller training courses are scheduled for 2023. For questions about these courses and the New Faller Training program, please visit [BCFSC website](https://www.bcfsc.org) or email [faller@bcforestsafes.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafes.org).

2023 Course Dates (locations TBD)

- March 9 – April 10, 2023
- September 14 – October 16, 2023

### Falling Safety Advisor Activities

Despite the prolonged warm weather this summer, the BCFSC Falling Safety Advisors were busy with industry engagement, providing advocacy and mentoring throughout the province. We saw an increase in requests for Company Reviews, which provided the opportunity to support Falling Supervisors and offer recommendations on tasks like supervising to the risk and completing meaningful Faller inspections.

Below are the Falling Safety Advisor activities as of October 31, 2022.

- 15 Faller Certifications
- 9 CFS Quality Assurance Visits
- 4 Falling Supervisor Certifications
- 2 Certified Falling Supervisor Visits
- 281 Faller Visits
- 9 Trainer Quality Assurance Visits
- 19 Company Reviews

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## Changes Coming to Application and Assessment for BCFSC Faller Certification

Starting in January 2023, the requirements to apply for BCFSC Faller Certification will change. An updated [Faller Certification Information and Application package](#) will be available on our website January 2023.

Challenge Applicants	
Currently	January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence of training and certification that is recognized by the Board (Faller Certification Card from approved Administrator)</li> <li>Provide evidence, at minimum, of 2 years (60 days = 1 year) of falling experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence of training and certification that is recognized by the Board (Faller Certification Card from approved Administrator)</li> <li>Provide evidence, at minimum, of 2 years (90 days = 1 year) of falling experience in a forestry/production setting</li> </ul>
BCFSC New Faller Trainees	
Currently	March 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 20 minimum Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports are required to be completed by a certified faller.</li> <li>Completed reports are accepted as long as they are within the current 2-year time frame</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 20 minimum Faller Trainee Weekly Training and Progress Reports are required to be completed by a BCFSC certified faller.</li> <li>Completed reports must be received by the BCFSC within 2-months of the end of the reporting period identified on the report. For example, if the report is for the week of January 6-10, 2023, the report must be submitted no later than March 10, 2023. Reports will not be accepted if they are not submitted within the 2-month timeframe.</li> </ul>

BCFSC will also be moving from the current scoring-based assessment process to a competency-based assessment process. This assessment will be based on the current BC Faller Training Standard and will involve the following:

- To become certified with the BCFSC, ALL outcomes of the assessment must be met. This will include knowledge and demonstration of falling procedures.
- If all outcomes are not met during the assessment, a gap training plan will be provided to the applicant. The Assessor may determine the identified gaps require the involvement of a BCFSC approved Qualified Trainer to provide upgrade training.
- Applicants will have 6-months from the date of initial assessment to fulfill a gap training plan. This includes receiving upgrade training if required and scheduling a re-assessment. A re-assessment will only include the gaps that were initially identified being tested.
  - » BCFSC new faller trainee applicants will receive 1 gap training site visit at no cost. Any additional visits will be at the cost of the applicant.
  - » Challenge applicants will be required to pay for each site visit that is required.

If applicants have not met the outcomes within 6-months, they will be required to re-apply.

## WorkSafeBC Releases a New Video Series for Supervision in Manual Falling

Manual tree falling is a high-risk activity that has resulted in serious injuries and deaths. In this video series, forestry professionals share their personal stories of the long-term impact falling incidents have had on themselves and on their crews. These stories highlight the importance of supervision in identifying and managing risk, no matter the size of the operation, and how supervisors play a key role in making sure fallers return home safe at the end of the day.

[Champions of Change](#)

[Challenges for Supervisors](#)

[Developing Effective Supervisors](#)

[Supervising to the Level of Risk](#)

[Support for Supervisors](#)

For more information and resources, visit WorkSafeBC's [Manual falling & bucking](#) and [Supervising for health & safety](#) webpages.

## Faller Certification Card Renewals

In November, BCFSC began to mail out three-year faller cards to those with cards expiring in January 2023. Throughout the year, we will continue to mail out cards to all those with a 2023 expiry date.



If you have not received your card, require a replacement card or require an address update, contact the Falling Department at [faller@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafesafe.org) or 1-877-741-1060. 🌲