

# FOREST SAFETY

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# NEWS



Welcome to the Winter edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at [editor@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafesafe.org) or call 1-877-741-1060.

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## Rebuilding in the Aftermath of an Atmospheric River

Atmospheric River, Heat Dome, Polar Vortex, Pineapple Express ... over the past few years these meteorological terms have been used so regularly that they are now part of our everyday vocabulary. Severe weather events are occurring regularly all over the world and BC is certainly not spared from them.

In November 2021, an atmospheric river brought an unprecedented amount of rain to the province causing catastrophic flooding to the south coast of BC. It devastated parts of southern Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley, parts of the interior and the Kootenay region. This flooding not only prompted a state of emergency for the province but also caused devastation to agriculture production and severe disruptions to the transportation

corridor. Roads and bridges were heavily impacted by high water levels and slides that damaged bridges, culverts and large sections of highways and roads that cut off main access routes from the south coast to several areas of the province.

But it wasn't just major infrastructure that was affected. Numerous sections of resource roads were destroyed halting forestry operations in their tracks. These roads are typically gravel roads with bridge infrastructure, culverts, switchbacks and other engineering challenges that are vulnerable to damage from ongoing seasonal weather at the best of times. But when the atmospheric river occurred in November 2021, the damage wiped out huge areas of roadways creating numerous

operational and safety challenges for road recovery and repair crews. Road and bridge builders were running at full speed to repair the roads so operations could get back on track. This type of work can be extremely difficult since most resource roads are located in remote areas where it is difficult to get equipment and crews to inaccessible sites. Even just assessing the damage can be a challenge as there may be multiple sections of the road that may be impassable making it difficult to determine what needs to be repaired.

The severity of that particular storm took us all by surprise. In fact, it was reported that one river went from 2m rising to 20m overnight. After the damage assessment was done, almost every bridge from Hope to Cache Creek was missing, severely compromised and in some cases, completely wiped out.

*Continued on page 2...*



SkinnyChicken Enterprises Ltd. is the Prime Contractor appointed by Teal Jones to construct resource roads and bridges in the East Anderson area. Based out of Boston Bar, they shared their harrowing story with BCFSC about the storm hitting them last year and their equipment getting stranded more than 40km up a resource road where they were working.

When the storm hit, SkinnyChicken was building roads and bridges while the same area had active logging operations. The rain was so severe it washed out multiple sections of the road from top to bottom, the largest was about a 2km stretch that was completely wiped out. The entire section had disappeared and only a 30ft drop was left in its place. In the blink of an eye, the project instantly changed from a rebuilding operation to an equipment rescue operation that would require meticulous planning, coordinated teamwork and persistent communications to execute safely.

The scale of the rescue operation was uncharted waters for SkinnyChicken Enterprises as eight of their machines and a number of machines from other contractors were stuck at the top of the mountain without a passable route to get down. Owner, Eric Phibbs and his crew worked diligently with Teal Jones to spearhead a revised strategy with a revamped safety plan to get the equipment down to the bottom of the mountain safely. The treacherous conditions, remote location and site accessibility made the work high-risk for serious injury. Although the site was accessible by helicopter, the scheduling and machine capacity had to be carefully considered due to the expense and ongoing weather conditions at the time. Crews were able to hike but the inclement weather was a challenge and they were also limited with the necessary rescue equipment they could carry and the time it took for them to get to the site.



With a revised operational strategy plan and safety procedures in place, the equipment rescue operation took approximately one week to execute. There were fuel factors to consider since extra fuel for the stranded machines could not be transported by helicopter or by crews on foot. The group had decided they would ONLY work during daylight hours which also put a time constraint on the day-to-day operations. The work was gruelling and difficult but through constant communication and their commitment to safety and each other, crews managed to move the stranded equipment from one site to another down unstable muddy terrain in inclement weather working in small teams.

Teal Jones' and SkinnyChicken Enterprise's diligence in revising a strategy to work around unpredictable environmental factors and arming the crews with enhanced safety protocols and equipment training, ensured the crew's safety was the number one concern while they worked. They managed to rebuild temporary roads

and river crossings using the stranded equipment while moving down the mountain in small stages without one injury occurring during the entire precarious operation.

"Safety is not difficult" says Peter DeVido, Operations Manager for SkinnyChicken Enterprises. "Yes, we need to be productive in our operations, but by slowing down and taking time to stop, think and communicate, we can still get the job done and all get home safely every night. It's that easy."

In the next issue of Forest Safety News, SkinnyChicken Enterprises will share how they are using this experience and starting their project planning with a renewed vision to ensure they are not caught off guard in a similar situation in the future. Stay tuned. 📺



## What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since September 2022. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

**New Amendments to the Employment Standards Act Increases Safety for Young Workers** - The BC Ministry of Labour has announced changes to employment standards will better protect young people by outlining the types of work that are suitable for those aged 16 to 18.

**WorkSafeBC – Manual Falling Supervisor Video Series** - New forestry videos highlight the importance of supervising to the level of risk.

**BCFSC 2023-2025 Strategic Plan** – the updated three-year Strategic Plan is now available on our website. Read it online or download a copy.

**Training Course Catalogue** – We have a new look to our Course Catalogue. Keep your safety training current and find courses easily with our new filterable course catalogue.

**Training Calendar** – Our Training Calendar is now fully loaded and offers both in-classroom and online courses. We also provide requested training bringing courses directly to your preferred location at a convenient time that works for you.

**BCFSC FIRS App** - Forest Industry Reporting System is a FREE resource available to all BCFSC Members. [Register for access.](#)

**WorkSafeBC - New Requirements for Refusing Unsafe Work** - Workers' ability to refuse work if they believe it's unsafe is a fundamental right. Recent

amendments to the OHS Regulation clarify this right, and employers are now required to inform workers about a previous work refusal before reassigning the refused work.

**Tips to Successfully Transition into Supervision** - Webinar recording.

**Safety Alerts** – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** – Health and Wellness
- **Industry Alert** – Log Loader Cab Tilt System Fails
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – Click on the link to see the latest weekly alert

To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)

## Industry Links

**Shift Into Winter** – winter is just around the corner. Make sure you know when you need to install your winter tires and find out more about driving in winter road conditions.

**Road Safety at Work** – visit Road Safety at Work for resources, webinars, workshops and news relating to road safety for you and your employees.

**WorkSafeBC Announcements** – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more.



*Happy Holidays*

**BC Forest Safety**

Extending you our very best for a **safe, healthy and happy holiday season.**

**BCFSC Holiday Office Hours**

Monday, Dec 26	CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec 27	CLOSED
Wednesday, Dec 28	8am – 4:30pm
Thursday, Dec 29	8am – 4:30pm
Friday, Dec 30	8am – 4:30pm
Monday, Jan 2	CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan 3	Regular hours resume

**WorkSafeBC Enews** – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.

**WorkSafe Magazine** – WorkSafeBC publishes *WorkSafe Magazine* six times a year to inform, inspire and provide practical tips on a range of topical occupational health and safety matters. It's free to [subscribe](#) and available online. 📄



# New Amendments to the Employment Standards Act Increases Safety for Young Workers

The BC Ministry of Labour has announced changes to employment standards to better protect young people by outlining the types of work that are suitable for those aged 16 to 18.

These updated amendments will come into force on January 1, 2023 and identify work that is considered too hazardous for children and young people to perform.

“For a young person, working can be a rewarding and valuable experience, important for personal growth and setting them on a path to their own success,” said Harry Bains, Minister of Labour. “But it must be work that is both physically and mentally appropriate for their age, with the necessary training and supervision.”

To develop the new rules, ministry staff examined WorkSafeBC injury data and other jurisdictions’ labour laws relating to hazardous employment. Based on that information, several jobs within many industries were identified as hazardous for young workers, including areas within construction, forestry, food processing, oil/gas and power, asbestos removal and others.

## Important Facts:

- In BC the average annual injury rate in 2021 was 2.2 per 100 workers, but some jobs have much higher injury rates. For example:
  - framers in the construction industry have an injury rate of 7.8 per 100 workers;
  - workers in abattoirs have an injury rate of 15.7; and
  - manual tree fallers/buckers have an injury rate of almost 20 per 100 workers.
- Between 2012 and 2021, WorkSafeBC data revealed more than \$26.4 million was paid out in job-related disability claims for workers who were 16 to 18 at the time of the injury.

Consultations on the draft rules were held with industry, labour, safety and skills training groups, and an online survey was available to the public. Overall, survey respondents agreed that 18 years old was an appropriate minimum age requirement for most types of hazardous work, with some exceptions. For construction work, and fish and some animal processing work, a minimum age of 16 was deemed appropriate. There was also agreement that workplace safety and training must be prioritized at any worksite, and there needs to be rigorous enforcement of existing safety standards.

The new regulations define hazardous work for youth and provide minimum ages of 16 or 18 for certain types of work that are considered too hazardous for younger workers.

**A minimum age of 16** to undertake the following activities:

- construction
- silviculture
- forest firefighting
- working from heights that require fall protection under section 11.2 of the of the OHS

**A minimum age of 18** to undertake the following activities:

- tree falling and logging
- using a chainsaw
- work in a production process at a pulp, paper, saw, shake or shingle mill
- work in a production process at a foundry, metal processing or metal fabrication operation, refinery or smelter
- powerline construction or maintenance where an electrical hazard exists
- oil or gas field servicing and drilling
- work with dangerous equipment in fish, meat or poultry processing facilities

- silica process/exposure to silica dust
- work in which a worker is or may be exposed to potentially harmful levels of asbestos
- exposure to harmful levels of radiation
- working in a confined space or underground workings
- work requiring a respirator

The following are important definitions relating to these provisions.

1. The Director of Employment Standards cannot issue a permit for workers to work below the prescribed minimum ages, nor can a parent or guardian give permission.
2. Students in a secondary school work study, work experience or occupational study class are exempt from these provisions, as are trainees or apprentices registered with the BC Industry Training Authority (SkilledTradesBC).
3. While the regulation comes into force on January 1, 2023, workers and employers do not need to change a young worker’s duties if the young worker has been performing the same duties prior to January 1, 2023 and will attain the prescribed minimum age by April 1, 2023.

The updated regulation brings BC into line with international labour standards and other Canadian jurisdictions by ensuring that children and young workers are engaged in safe and age-appropriate work. While the work can safely be undertaken by adults, a level of maturity and judgment is required to properly assess risks and use personal protective equipment and safety controls.

To learn more about these new amendments, visit the [BC Ministry of Labour website](#). 📄

# Save the Date – Scheduled BC Forestry Conferences & Events for 2023

\*Please note: Scheduled in-person 2023 conferences could be modified based on BC Health Authority restrictions at the time of the conference.

Conference	Scheduled Dates	Location	Registration
20th Annual BC Natural Resource Forum	Jan 17 - 19, 2023	Prince George, BC	<a href="http://bcnaturalresourcesforum.com">bcnaturalresourcesforum.com</a>
78th Annual Truck Loggers Association	Jan 18 - 20, 2023	Vancouver, BC	<a href="http://tla.ca/convention">tla.ca/convention</a>
2023 Western Forestry Contractors' Association Conference, Trade Show and AGM	Feb 1 – 3, 2023	Hybrid / Online & In-person   Victoria, BC	<a href="http://wfca.ca">wfca.ca</a>
Association of BC Forest Professionals Forestry Conference	Feb 8 – 10, 2023	Prince George, BC	<a href="http://abcfp.ca">abcfp.ca</a>
7th Annual Indigenous Resource Opportunities Conference	Feb 28 – March 1, 2023		<a href="http://bcirc.ca">bcirc.ca</a>
Council of Forest Industries Convention	April 12-14, 2023	Prince George, BC	<a href="http://cofi.org">cofi.org</a>
Western Conference on Safety	May 1-2, 2023	Vancouver, BC	<a href="http://wcs.pacificsafetycenter.com">wcs.pacificsafetycenter.com</a>
Interior Logging Association	May 4 – 6, 2023	Kamloops, BC	<a href="http://interiorlogging.org">interiorlogging.org</a>
Canadian North Resources Expo	May 26-27, 2023	Prince George, BC	<a href="http://cnre.ca">cnre.ca</a>
Vancouver Island Safety Conference	Oct 28, 2023	Nanaimo, BC	<a href="http://bcforestsafesafe.org">bcforestsafesafe.org</a>

## And the Award Goes to ...

The Leadership in Safety Awards celebrate safety achievements in the forest industry. The awards are presented at the Vancouver Island Safety Conference recognizing individuals for their contributions and their outstanding commitment in supporting safety in the workplace. Nominations are invited from anyone in industry, who knows someone – an individual, crew, contractor, company, supplier, consultant, etc. – who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding safety achievements. Someone who has made, or continues to make, a difference in supporting our shared goal to see every worker return home safely at the end of the day.

There are three award categories for Leadership Safety.

### 1. Cary White Memorial Award

This special award is presented to someone who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving safety awareness, expanding safety knowledge, developing safety skills at ground level and building a lasting culture of safety among BC's forestry workers. It is someone who goes the extra mile to help others reach their safety goals with a helping hand, proven experience and knowledge.

It was created in honour of one of BCFSC first Safety Advocates, Cary White, who passed away in 2008. With more

than 30 years' experience in the forest industry – including 23 years with WorkSafeBC, Cary was an individual often described as someone who had forestry and the safety of workers in his blood.

### 2. Forest Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a notable contribution to forest industry safety within their operation or company.

### 3. Manufacturing Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a notable contribution to manufacturing safety within a sawmill or wood pellet operation or company.

The MVP for both Forest Safety and Manufacturing Safety could be a worker whose idea resulted in improvements to workplace safety, a supervisor who communicated regularly with their crew spearheading safe work procedures, a crew that found a way to work more safely and productively, a manager who demonstrated commitment to worker safety, a committee that achieved safety improvements through persistent efforts to seek changes, or a company that has demonstrated leadership in integrating health & safety into their business practices.

*Continued on page 6...*

This year, four individuals received Leadership in Safety Awards. The 2022 Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to Safety Excellence was presented to two outstanding individuals, Chico Newell, retired BC Coroner and Darin Brown (RFPF and RPFT), Owner and Safety Manager at Meridian Forest Services Ltd. The 2022 Most Valuable Player Award in Forestry was presented to long-time faller and faller safety advocate, Dazy Weymer and David Murray, corporate safety, HR and environment manager for Gorman Group and the co-chairperson of the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) was this year's winner of the Most Valuable Player Award for Wood Products Manufacturing.

## CHICO NEWELL - 2022 Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award Forest Safety



Chico's award as a champion of promoting safe practices to help reduce the risk of injury and incidents was long overdue. The term "good enough" was never in Chico's vocabulary – he always looked for the best solution to improve safety, even if that meant taking on established norms or bureaucracy. Chico was passionate about preventing incidents, always keeping this ultimate goal in mind while striving to get information out to industry that was useful and actionable in preventing further incidents.

## DARIN BROWN - 2022 Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award Harvesting



Darin's commitment to safety began at the very beginning of his career when he was working in the bush conducting an in-field assessment. Darin was mauled by a black bear while working alone. This experience forced him to focus on what he could have done differently to change the outcome and implement safety procedures to help reduce his risk and the risk to others working in similar field conditions. Darin has continued to keep safety top of mind throughout this career and has been an advocate of safety for every project he's touched and is constantly improving the Meridian safety program to ensure workers have the safety training and PPE they need to do their job safely.

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## DAVE (DAZY) WEYMER - 2022 MVP Award Harvesting



The 2022 Harvesting MVP was awarded to Dazy Weymer in recognition of his long-standing advocacy to falling safety. With over five decades of experience in BC logging, four of those as a Certified Faller, Dazy has played a crucial role in the training and development of new loggers, fallers and faller blasters. He has trained over 100 faller blasters through the Danger Tree Blasting Program and has been involved with training over 60 rookie loggers and fallers. Dazy's passion for falling and forestry safety combined with his wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise has made Dazy a key contributor and subject matter expert for various organizations especially the BC Forest Safety Council. As a member of the BCFSC Program Committee and the Faller Technical Advisory Committee rep for both the Coast Harvesting Advisory Group and the Faller Standard Advisory Committee, Dazy continues to be an integral part of our commitment to ensuring *Every Forestry Worker Gets Home Safe. Every Day.*

## DAVID MURRAY - 2022 MVP Award Wood Products Manufacturing



The final award for 2022 was presented to David Murray for the Most Valuable Player in Wood Products Manufacturing. David is well-known for his exemplary reputation as a strategic leader in implementing safety systems and championing best practises not only within his own company but across industry. David has been recognized throughout BC and Canada with safety results that are proven to significantly reduce incident risks for workers and has dedicated his career to transforming industry safety as a principal component in manufacturing operations.

*David Murray is a true safety professional and quiet spoken leader with extensive knowledge of safety systems and processes. Some of his most endearing qualities are his practicality to solving problems and his honesty in evaluating safety initiatives, tools, systems, and ideas. His willingness to share his successes and failures for the betterment of all, endears him to those he collaborates with.* – Darren Beattie, Manager Health & Safety, City of Prince George and former MAG member. 🌟

# The Return of the Vancouver Island Safety Conference

On Saturday, October 29th, 294 participants attended the 2022 Vancouver Island Safety Conference in Nanaimo, BC. Forestry professionals from various industry sectors spent their Saturday attending the full-day conference centered on “Lead the Way – Resiliency, Opportunity, Engagement”.

This year’s presentations focussed on mental health, safety leadership and resiliency of the mind. Three keynote speakers, Corey Hirsch, Michelle Ray and Terry Small, addressed their topics in very different ways. Corey Hirsch, former NHL Goaltender, coach, Olympic silver medalist and NHL commentator spoke about his struggles with his own mental health issues. In his powerful presentation, Just One More Day, Corey shared how he was able to mask his feelings outwardly while struggling to cope each day and how he came back from the brink of self-destruction by taking the courageous step to ask for help. Michelle Ray, Leadership Expert, gave an inspiring and humorous presentation on *Safety Leadership: It Starts and Ends With Me* addressing

the power of personal leadership and providing useful insights for safety professionals to build upon core personal values and blending them into leadership skills to bring out the best in people. The final keynote speaker, Terry Small, aka “The Brain Guy” is one of Canada’s leading learning skills specialists. His presentation on *Healthy Brain, Resilient Mind | Five Steps to a Calmer, Happier, Sharper You* was a fascinating look into how the brain leads the charge in ensuring the body’s health and safety. The audience was left pondering how they will take the tools Terry provided to help boost their brainpower, improve their thinking, focus and productivity, and improve their brain health to work more safely.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made this free conference and networking event possible through generous financial, product and service contributions. For a detailed overview of all of the presentations from the 2022 Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference, read the [VISC 2022 Wrap-up](#). 📄



Corey Hirsch



Geraldine Manson

## Safety Share

In September, David D’Arcangelo from Darcan Contracting, contractor for Mosaic Forest Management reached out to us to share a personal experience that made him appreciate the need to be prepared not just at work but always.

*“I came across a Motor Vehicle Accident (not forestry-related) this morning on the Inland Island Hwy on my way to see my parents.*

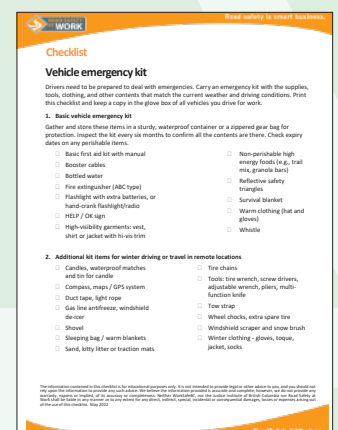
*Thankfully all of my safety components were on-hand in my truck (first aid kit and training, blankets, spill kit and fire extinguisher) and brought into service. A 5-ton cargo truck (might have been a 3-ton) was on its side and the gasoline was free flowing from the ruptured tank. Thankfully there was no fire, but it was iffy. I ended up having to take control of scene and administer first aid until ambulance arrived.*

*Anyway, thanks to the due diligence and safety mindset of Mosaic and the BCFSC, I had some pretty essential tools on-hand when the first dozen people who stopped before me had nothing. That felt rewarding, especially when a couple onlookers present said thank you at the end.”*

Thanks to David’s preparedness, he helped keep the incident in check until emergency services were able to arrive on the scene. His safety training, cool head and well-equipped vehicle are a clear demonstration of the importance of being prepared. We want to thank David for sharing this story with us and applaud him for making safety an important part of his everyday life.

If you have a safety moment you would like to share, send us an email at [editor@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafesafe.org). 📄

### Road Safety at Work Emergency Car Kit





# BCFSC Unveils its 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

The BCFSC is constantly assessing the BC Forestry Industry reviewing each sector's forecasted challenges and trends using industry feedback, WorkSafeBC injury data and working with its Board of Directors, Program Committee and advisory groups to support our collective vision of *Ensuring every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.*

As forest policy modernization, reconciliation efforts and robust climate agendas continue to advance, the forest industry in BC is undergoing an evolution that will require new and different strategies to meet the future needs of BC's Forest Industry.

As we continue to adapt to changing circumstances, we have identified eight strategic focus areas.

The following is an overview of the areas and safety strategies we aim to deliver over the next three years.

## Promoting cultural change

### **1. Develop and promote communications of BCFSC and industry initiatives**

BCFSC will be recognised as an industry leader for value-added health and safety and training resources.

### **2. Engage and inform industry**

BCFSC will engage in partnership with key industry stakeholders and organizations to collaboratively develop and advance industry best practices.

## Developing a competent, confident workforce

### **3. Refine existing training programs**

BCFSC will revise training programs to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all participants.

### **4. Increase access to training materials and programs to permit industry to train more people**

BCFSC will increase access to training materials and programs to support improved learning outcomes for new entrants and existing workers.

## Encouraging and supporting companies to have effective safety and injury management systems in place

### **5. Support Indigenous participation in the forest industry**

BCFSC will work closely with Indigenous organizations to support worker awareness of safety issues, develop tailored safety programs, and improve access and availability of training programs.

### **6. Research, Identify and Promote New Technologies**

BCFSC will research and promote new technologies aimed at eliminating and reducing existing and emerging risks to workers and develop new technologies aimed at simplifying incident and safety management system reporting requirements.

### **7. Improve and expand in-field support and advocacy services**

BCFSC will provide targeted outreach and support to employers and workers engaged in high-risk activities.

## Promoting a safety conscious legal regime

### **8. Develop industry guidelines and best practices**

BCFSC will engage with industry to develop industry guidelines and best practices to enhance the consistent application of safe work practices for high-risk activities.

Within each of these focus areas, BCFSC has foundational resources to support the delivery of our safety mandate through our programs, resources and services. We have developed robust work plan initiatives including annual targets to translate our strategic focus areas into measurable outcomes over the next three years. These initiatives will help improve our ability to deliver BCFSC's Strategic Focus areas.



Access the [2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and [2023 Work Plan](#) on our website for full details. 📄

# Canada's Forest Sector Honours Ntityix Resources LP of West Kelowna, BC with Indigenous Business Leadership Award

Article Courtesy of Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)

As National Forest Week was celebrated across the country, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) seized the opportunity to announce the recipients of its annual Awards of Excellence program. FPAC announced that Ntityix Resources LP of West Kelowna, BC was honoured with the Indigenous Business Leadership Award.

The Indigenous Business Leadership Award, presented by FPAC in partnership with Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), celebrates Indigenous entrepreneurs in the forest products sector who exemplify business leadership through exceptional environmental and safety performance and the delivery of high-quality products and services. The recipient must also demonstrate a long-term commitment to the Indigenous community, particularly in supporting Indigenous employment.

"The forest products sector works in partnership with over 1,400 Indigenous-owned businesses, each of which are critical partners in advancing forest health and economic prosperity in our forestry communities," said FPAC President and CEO Derek Nighbor. "The Indigenous Business Leadership Award provides FPAC and CCAB with the opportunity to highlight the great work being done in these communities and showcase how Indigenous business leaders like Ntityix Resources LP are driving environmental, economic, and social opportunities across the country," he added.

Since 2013, Dave Gill (RPF) has had the honour of being General Manager of Forestry with Ntityix Resources

LP – a West Kelowna First Nation-held natural resource company located in the heart of Syilx territory in the central Okanagan valley. He and his team coordinate the planning, operations, silviculture, and community and local stakeholder engagement on Westbank First Nation's (WFN) forest tenures. Since graduating from forestry at UBC, Dave has worked for industry, his own consultancy, government, and First Nations in locations such as Haida Gwaii, Vancouver Island and various locations in the interior of British Columbia. Today, Dave's primary interest is advancing ways to incorporate Indigenous and community values into all aspects of forest stewardship on WFN-held tenures and to continue earning the support of, and developing opportunities for, the WFN Community.

"I can't tell you just how exciting it is to be working with Indigenous communities in forestry today. After more than 30 years in the industry, the last 9 with WFN have been the most rewarding and challenging years of my career," said Gill. To see Indigenous communities to begin re-taking control of their lands, making decisions that reflect their values, and forging partnerships with our industry neighbours warms my heart and shows how we can move our industry forward in a more sustainable and inclusive way. For Ntityix to win this award reflects the values of our community, our company, and the hard work of our staff and the will of our partners to make a difference".

**[Click here](#)** to learn more about FPAC's Awards of Excellence recipients. 🌲





# WorkSafeBC's Worker Engagement and Joint Committees Initiative - a Key Strategy for Reducing Health and Safety Risks in BC Workplaces

Each year WorkSafeBC aligns its initiatives with its strategic plan. WorkSafeBC's [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) builds a framework to guide decision-making and focus for their work by setting strategic priorities and the desired outcomes.

Prevention Services' initiatives are focused on the strategic priority to **prevent workplace injury, disease, and death by engaging employers and workers**. Through these initiatives, WorkSafeBC aims to achieve a desired outcome to **reduce health and safety risks in BC workplaces**.

## The importance of worker engagement

Workers have an important role in reducing risk and creating safer, healthier workplaces.

Workers have three key rights that must be supported and protected:

1. The right to know about hazards in the workplace
2. The right to participate in health and safety activities in the workplace
3. The right to refuse unsafe work

Workers also play a key role in an effective health and safety program. Workers can help support the safety of themselves and their fellow workers; provide invaluable insight into workplace health and safety; and report health and safety concerns, solutions, and suggestions for improvement.

## How WorkSafeBC is supporting worker engagement

Through Worker Engagement and Joint Committees Initiative, WorkSafeBC is focusing on engaging workers directly during inspections and consultations. Some of the outcomes of this engagement will include:

- Helping workers understand their role in reducing risk
- Promoting joint occupational health and safety committee requirements that are in place for some employers
- Reviewing the requirements to evaluate joint occupational health and safety committees on an annual basis and how to engage the committee in this important discussion

## What can employers do

In advance of a potential inspection or consultation, WorkSafeBC is encouraging employers to familiarize themselves with the [Joint health & safety committees](#) information and resources on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com), including:

- When you need a joint health and safety committee / worker health and safety representative
- What joint committees and worker health and safety representatives do
- Mandatory training and annual education leave
- Evaluation of joint committees 🗣️



# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



For 2022 year-to-date, there have been two work-related deaths in the BC forestry industry. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents.

## Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

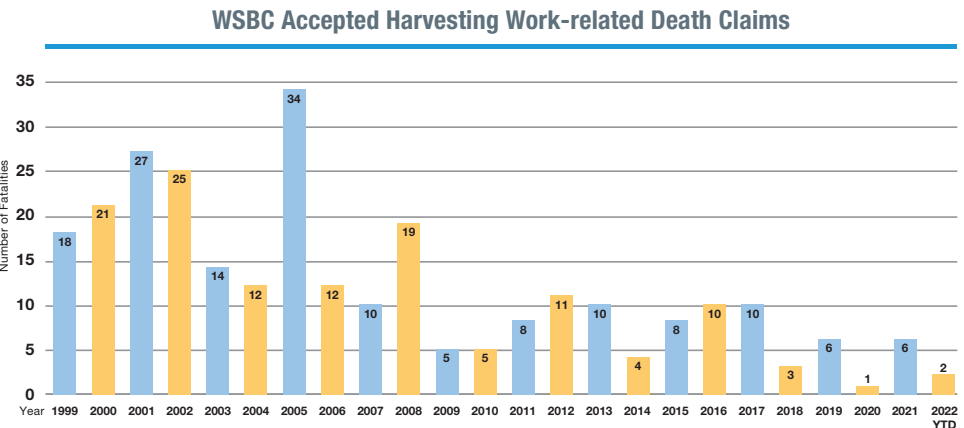
The following sample of work-related incidents recently reported to WorkSafeBC may help prevent similar incidents in your workplace.

### HARVESTING

**Injury:** Multiple fractures  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Sept  
A hand faller felled a red cedar tree. The falling tree pushed over another, weakly rooted red cedar. A third tree (short, stubby danger tree) sharing the second tree's root system fell back and upslope from the faller, resulting in the faller being struck by a dead top. The injured worker received first aid on site and was transported to hospital by helicopter.

**Injury:** Undetermined injuries to upper body (1 worker)  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Aug  
A manual faller was working in a cutblock for helicopter logging. The worker was moving away from the base of the tree being felled when they were grazed (glancing blow) by the butt end of a previous felled tree in a chain reaction. The worker contacted their falling partner and was treated by the first aid attendant then transported to hospital by the site helicopter.

**Injury:** Multiple fractures (1 worker)  
**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Aug  
A faller was falling trees for road construction. The worker was moving away from the base of the tree being felled when they were struck by a smaller hemlock tree that had been hung up in the canopy. The worker briefly lost consciousness but was later able to contact their falling partner for help.



This information represents the number of work-related deaths by year in BC, up until August, 2022.

**Injury:** Bruised back, sore shoulder  
**Core Activity:** Cable or hi-lead logging  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Jul  
A turn of logs (two choked balsam logs about 25 metres long) was being yarded uphill. As the logs went over a chunk of broken deadfall cedar (6 metres long) with an attached rootwad, the chunk suddenly rotated and struck a worker standing 9 metres away from the moving rigging.

### MANUFACTURING

**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Pellet mill  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Oct  
A fire occurred in the enclosed conveyor system between the dry fibre monitoring deck and the hammer mill building. The tent cover over the dry shavings was burned but no one was injured. The fire department extinguished the fire.

**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Sawmill  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Oct  
While a worker was performing maintenance and testing on a log loader, the loader lurched forward and struck a small, metal storage building.

**Injury:** Fractured arm (1 worker)  
**Core Activity:** Sawmill  
**Location:** Northern BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Oct  
Two workers were replacing drive belts on a canter log deck drive unit. The gearbox for the drive unit is equipped with a brake, mounted to the drive unit frame. The workers were removing the brake assembly in order to install the drive belts. The brake assembly was under tension and when the last bolt was removed, the assembly spun around, striking one worker.

**Injury:** Concussion, fractures  
**Core Activity:** Dump truck operation / Sawmill  
**Location:** Lower Mainland  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Sept  
A worker was standing on the back of a wheeled loader, cleaning it with compressed air. The worker fell about 4 feet to grade.

**Injury:** Injuries to fingers  
**Core Activity:** Sawmill  
**Location:** Interior BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Aug  
A young worker was undoing a lumber cross-up on a transfer table when several fingers of one of their hands were pinched between pieces of lumber.

### TRANSPORTATION

**Injury:** Concussion  
**Core Activity:** Log hauling  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Sept  
A loaded off-highway log transporter (chubby/fat truck) was descending an in-block haul road. The truck failed to negotiate a steep (23 percent) switchback, drove off the road over a steep embankment (70 percent), and rolled onto the driver's side, spilling the load onto a previously logged area and the road below.

**Injury:** Close call  
**Core Activity:** Log hauling / Integrated forest management  
**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC  
**Date of Incident:** 2022-Sept  
A loaded log transporter failed to negotiate a corner on a section of highway and rolled over into the ditch. A passerby helped the driver out of the cab. 🚗





## The 2022 SAFE Companies Audit Deadline is Here

By Mike Sexton, SAFE Companies Manager

The annual requirement for all SAFE Companies to submit a 2022 audit means you have only until December 31, 2022 to get your audit in.

No one wants to be preparing an audit over the Christmas holiday, so there is no time like the present to get your audit started and submitted.

BCFSC understands for most of you, preparing the audit is a once-a-year event. Refreshing your memory as to what you need to do will save you valuable time in the long run. To help you with the process, [review the video on how to prepare an audit](#) before you get started.

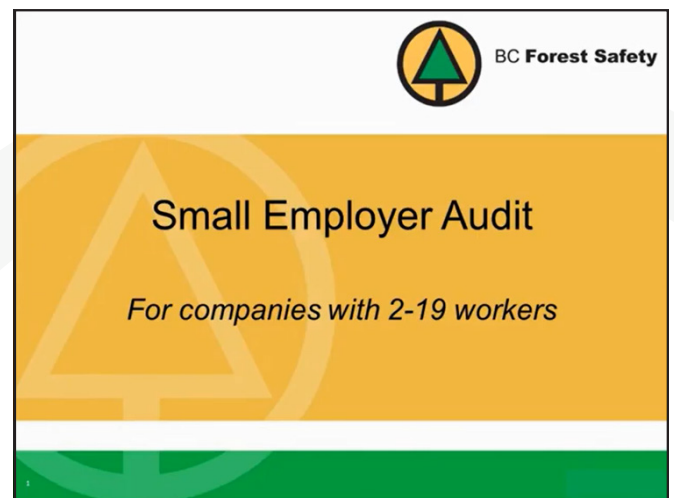
There is an audit tool available for download, along with forms and resources you may need. You can easily [access the Audit Support Forms and Resources](#) from the BCFSC website. Just remember the full audit tool must be fully completed and submitted with all annual audits. This includes:

- The two-page Company Profile
- The Corrective Action Log (CAL) from last year's audit review letter
- A completed Training Log with all workers listed who worked for your company in the current audit reporting year

**SEBASE/ISEBASE** audit Questions 5, 9a, 13, and 14 are answered right on the audit tool and Questions 15-22 must ALL have one box ticked off in each question, declaring if they apply to this current audit reporting.

**IOO** audit Questions 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 are answered right on the audit tool and Questions 10-13 must ALL have one box ticked off in each question, declaring if they apply to this current audit reporting year.

If you run into difficulty, a BCFSC Safety Advisor is available to assist you Monday through Friday from 8am – 5pm. Give us a call at 1-877-741-1060. 🌲





## Attention Supervisors – Forest Supervisor Communication Course

As part of our ongoing efforts to support Supervisors, we thought it would be timely to draw attention to our Forest Supervisor Communication course. This course was launched in 2014 and remains a great option for new and existing supervisors. This training is for you if you are looking for ideas about handling difficult conversations, resolving conflict, communicating safety messages, and disciplining workers.

Our Forest Supervisor Communication Course is a one-day in-person workshop that helps supervisors and managers improve their communication skills at work. This course helps participants improve key communication skills and focuses primarily on identifying appropriate communication strategies, managing written and verbal communication, and conducting effective meetings. For this course, the entire focus is communication! This means that you will need to emulate good

communication skills throughout – so active participation is expected.

One of the topics covered in the course is how the communication method can affect your message. Consider two-way radio versus email versus text versus in-person communication--what are the strengths and limitations of each method?

### Pitfalls of Poor Communication

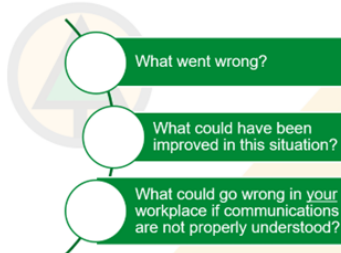


Figure 1: Discussion topics from course

While there are some differences in these methods that will be explored in the class, it is always important to formulate a message and deliver it

in a manner that the recipient of the message receives it. For example, consider the role written material plays in communicating safe work outcomes. Have you ever misinterpreted a report, sign, email, or text, or had your written communication misunderstood? Participants will review and improve various safety communications examples to reinforce their learning.

This workshop is a safe space to practice communication skills under the guidance of an experienced instructor who understands typical forestry scenarios where communication issues may arise. A participant from a recent session told us that the instructor gave them a new perspective on how to deal with tough situations.

Check out the course page for scheduled sessions. **Communication for Forest Supervisors** – BC Forest Safety Council. If you have a group, we can offer this training by request. Contact us at [training@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:training@bcforestsafesafe.org).

## Incident Investigation – Are you prepared?

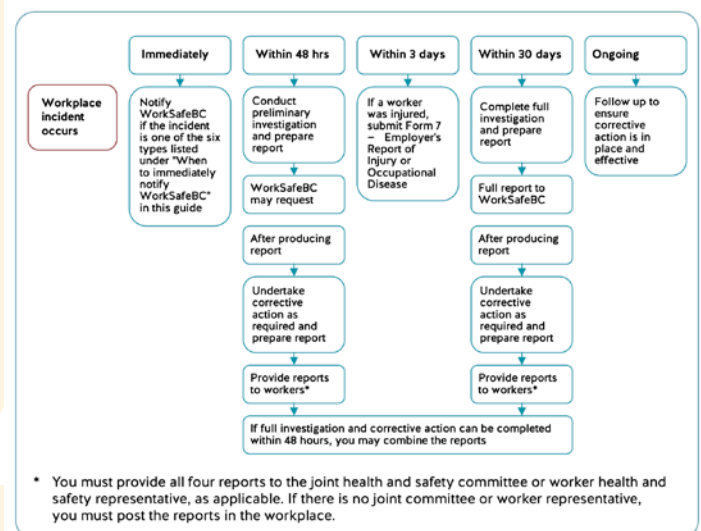
Are you aware that employers have certain responsibilities if a workplace incident results in an injury, or could have caused a serious injury? Does your company know what is required and what to do? One critical component of these responsibilities is the incident investigation. Incident investigations help identify the cause and hazards of workplace incidents, while finding ways to prevent similar occurrences from happening in the future.

WorkSafeBC has a **Reference Guide for Employer Incident Investigations | WorkSafeBC** including a reference chart that you may want to keep handy in case if you ever need it.

Continued on page 15...

### What to do following a workplace incident

Figure 1: Summary of incident investigation and reporting requirements





**Incident Reporting / Investigation Forms** can also be downloaded from our website.

BCFSC may be able to provide confidential support to members with their serious incident investigations upon request. Contact the Manager, SAFE Companies for more information at 1-877-741-1060. If you are looking for training on incident investigation, or simply want to review the process and requirements, BC Forest Safety Council offers three courses that have been developed by subject matter experts and meet the specific needs of the forest industry. Check out our [website](#) for more information and how to register:

### **Basic Incident Investigation Training**

This in-person course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation. It is suitable for individuals who may be required to complete incident investigations, such as Joint Committee members, or Supervisors.

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- Discuss the reasons for and value of conducting incident investigations
- Prepare for and conduct effective incident investigations
- Identify immediate and root causes for incidents
- Develop effective corrective actions

This course is offered in various locations throughout the province. This course can also be delivered by request for groups at your location. Give us a call for more details.

### **Serious Incident and Fatality Investigation Training**

The free online Serious Incident and Fatality Investigation course provides instruction on how to complete investigations for incidents involving serious injuries or fatalities. These types of incidents often involve different agencies such as the RCMP and Coroners Service and employers should understand the roles and responsibilities of these agencies at the workplace.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- Follow the BC Forest Safety Council's 5 stage Incident Investigation Model.
- Describe serious incident or fatality investigation skills.

- Describe the roles of outside authorities in an investigation.
- Understand the initial response steps to a serious incident or fatality
- Describe WorkSafeBC's reporting requirements following a serious incident or fatality.
- Identify and describe helpful resources available to support you and others affected by a serious incident or fatality in the workplace.

### **NEW Hazard ID, Inspections & Incident Investigation Training – Wood Products Manufacturing**

This free online course helps wood products manufacturing supervisors build skills in hazard identification, inspection, and investigation training. This course is one of six courses that are part of the [Supervisor Training Program for Wood Products Manufacturing](#).

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- 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 🚩



## Resource Road Driver Internal Training

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) and its industry partners have collaborated to support companies in delivering comprehensive resource road driver training to their workers using the BCFSC Resource Road Driver Program materials to develop internal training capacity and expertise.

Applications to access and use the Resource Road Driver Program materials for internal training will be reviewed by BCFSC and approval will be granted to companies that can show the following:

- Internal capacity of potential trainers
- Ability to meet program outcomes, including supporting the training requirements of trainers
- SAFE Certification

Approved companies are then eligible to send their trainers to the Resource Road Driver Internal Trainer (RRDIT) course. This three-day, “train-the-trainer” course provides company trainers with the skills and knowledge to teach the one-day Resource Road Safety Training - Internal and the more comprehensive two-day Resource Road Driver Training - Internal. As part of the three day train the trainer course, participants will work in the field with experienced instructors to refine their skills and ensure they are qualified to deliver the internal training within their own organizations.

To learn more about the course content, prerequisites and approval process, please visit the [Resource Road Driver Internal Training](#) webpage. 🌱

## Professional Driver Training Program Underway in Okanagan

Classes are underway for the Professional Industry Driver Training Program at Okanagan College in Vernon. After students complete the Mandatory Entry-Level Training (MELT) and have passed their Class 1 driver tests, they move into the mentoring phase on their path to becoming capable drivers looking for careers hauling logs or chips in the local forest industry.

“We’re pleased to once again be working with the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) on this training program”, says Leanne Clare, Program Coordinator with Okanagan College. “We saw positive outcomes with the previous program in 2021-22. Graduates of the program have amazing opportunities to get into good jobs in the forest industry. So, we’re planning for similar success with this program.”

Funded in cooperation with the Government of Canada and the BC’s Project Based Labour Market Training initiative, the 29-week program provides students with MELT Training and support to help students get their Class 1 driver’s licence. The program also provides students with essential skills and industry-specific training.

“On top of that, the program matches students up with companies and experienced mentors who invest some 160 hours showing students *how things are done*, and then guiding and coaching each student so they pick up the knowledge and skills they’ll need for driving a log or chip truck”, says Dustin Meierhofer, BCFSC Director of Transportation Safety.

When the student is ready, an approved assessor does both a technical and a behind-the-wheel assessment to see if the student has gained the necessary competencies. Once they are successful in the assessment process, the student receives a Professional Industry Driver Endorsement through BCFSC. “Many employers within the industry recognize that endorsement and look for it when they’re hiring new drivers”, says Dustin.

If you’re interested in this program, contact Leanne Clare at [LClare@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:LClare@okanagan.bc.ca). To learn more about the PID program or participate as a **mentor**, contact Rick Walters at 250-562-3215 or [rwalters@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:rwalters@bcforestsafe.org). 🌱



This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



# Winter Driving

Every BC employer must ensure the health and safety of all workers. As an employer, it is your responsibility to establish and maintain an effective safety program that addresses the risks and hazards your workers face when driving either a company or personal vehicle for work purposes.

If your company operates company-owned vehicles – or requires workers to use their personal vehicles for work purposes – the following information will help you develop health and safety plans and reduce the risk associated with driving during the winter driving season (October 1 to April 30 in BC).

Review these documents to help prepare your drivers for winter driving and keep them and others safe on the roads.

[BCFSC Winter Safety Resources](#)

[10 Winter Driving Tips for BC Log Haulers](#)

[Winter Driving: What Employers Need to Know](#)

[Winter Driving: TAG Safety Tips](#) 🚚



## Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) Survey for Commercial Vehicle Partners

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement (CVSE) is preparing to conduct a review of its width and length requirements. CVSE has acquired the services of MNP LLP (MNP) to support the facilitation and data analysis of this project. As a starting point, CVSE is seeking the views of its commercial vehicle partners on what provincial width and length requirements should be included within the review, based on their relative priority and impacts to the industry. A survey has been circulated from MNP to CVSE stakeholder groups and associations to be distributed to their members.

Stakeholder engagement with the survey will help to support the prioritization when building out the five-year plan around the survey items. To maximize survey participation, the survey will be available for three weeks and will take between 10 and 25 minutes, depending on the level of detail provided.

MNP will be collecting the data and analyzing all results; survey respondents' information will remain confidential, and all data is held on secure servers.

**Take the survey** if you would like to provide your feedback. 🚚



## MAG Audit Overview

Several years ago, wood products manufacturing companies used the BCFSC BASE audit to acquire their SAFE Companies Certification. But the BASE audit was not meeting the expected results for the sawmill industry. To remedy this, the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) and the BCFSC worked together to develop an audit program with an audit tool specifically built with an emphasis on risks related to sawmill workers to help improve safety performance.

The MAG-SAFE Audit was launched in 2019 to help effectively and efficiently measure sawmill safety performance and aligned with WorkSafeBC's high-risk strategy.

The MAG-SAFE audit is performed every three years with an external auditor observing and assessing safe work procedures and interviewing workers. A step-by-step guide of the audit process has been loaded to the MAG-SAFE Audit page on the BCFSC website. This overview provides details on how the audit is performed, what elements are reviewed, how the interviews are conducted and what are the main focus areas for high-risk assessment.

Review the [MAG-SAFE Audit Overview](#) to get a better understanding of what to expect for your MAG-SAFE Audit. If you have any further questions, contact the BCFSC Manufacturing Safety Department at 1-877-741-1060. 📞

## New Dedicated BCFSC MAG Administrator Gets Her Feet Wet

Tammy Carruthers, Manufacturing Safety's Administrative Assistant, has been with the BCFSC since 2019. Her knowledge and commitment to this organization has been invaluable. In her new role working with Bill Laternus, Manufacturing Safety Senior Advisor, she took the opportunity to travel with Bill to the quarterly Manufacturing Advisory Group meeting hosted by the Tolko Lavington Sawmill in Lavington BC just outside of Vernon.

Tammy shared her experience:

In June 2022, I moved into my new role as Manufacturing Safety Administrator. In this new role, I provide support to our Manufacturing Safety Advisory groups including the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG), Wood Pellets Association of Canada Safety Committee (WPAC) and Manufacturing Technical Working Group (MTWG). I also assist with providing Manufacturing Safety resources to industry such as our weekly Manufacturing Safety Crew Talks and Safety Alerts which we send to our email subscribers and share

on the BCFSC social media channels. These resources have been well received and provide a quick resource for engaging in safety talks in the workplace. We also encourage industry to share their incidents with us. We remove out the specific company information and repurpose it for a safety share that benefits everyone. At the end of the day, our goal is to have zero incidents where workers always go home safely.

This past September, the MAG committee held their quarterly in-person meeting at Tolko Lavington Mill. I was invited to attend and took the opportunity to see a sawmill in action and finally meet the people I have been engaging with over the past three years in person.

We were warmly received and given a comprehensive safety presentation on how Tolko ties its divisional safety plans to WorkSafeBC's high-risk strategy. After the presentation, we toured their facility. This was my first experience touring a sawmill and after seeing the process firsthand and



Pedestrian Crossing Bridge

smelling the freshly milled wood, I was captivated by the multitude and variety of operations it takes to manufacture wood products. Observing the safety measures in practice including lockouts and using the pedestrian bridge that was built to help prevent mobile equipment and pedestrian incidents was inspiring. I was so happy to see safety in action and hard at work to keep workers and visitors like me safe. I am proud to be part of what

*Continued on page 19...*



# Manufacturing Safety

Continued from page 18...

MAG is accomplishing for industry and this tour reaffirmed to me that the work MAG is doing is being adopted all over BC and companies are making safety a top priority by helping mitigate risks for sawmill workers.

*To me, Tammy is MUCH more than the Administrative Assistant for MAG*

*& WPAC. Not only is she a fast learner and a committed support person, but she readily takes on additional tasks and reacts quickly to the needs of the Manufacturing Safety groups. Tammy is the epitome of the Manufacturing Safety motto where we aim to 'work at the speed of business, not at*

*the speed of the bureaucracy". Bill Laturnus, BCFSC Manufacturing Safety Senior Advisor*

Stay informed on and subscribe to our Safety Alerts and weekly Crew Talks. Or to share an incident or submit a company safety moment with us. 📧



Control System Isolating Device (magnetic lock) on a perimeter gate is at the top of the hierarchy of controls.



Well-designed pedestrian crossing point.



An Inherently Safer Design (ISD – minimization) that removed the hazard of workers walking in front of the package outfeed forklift zone.



MAG members on the Tolko Lavington Sawmill tour.




## Cross-Country Safety Share

The cross-country safety share, led by the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG), brings together manufacturing safety leaders from all over Canada including members of the Manufacturing Technical Working Group (MTWG) and Wood Pellets Safety Advisory Group (WPAC) to share their industry best practices. The participants collaborate and

communicate valuable safety procedures with each other and discuss new ideas and operational practices they can adopt to help reduce the risk of injuries to sawmill workers across the country.

On October 13th, 2022, Tom Welton, Director of Health and Safety Services and Education Programs at Workplace Safety North and Chris Fowler, Safety

Coordinator with Canoe Forest Products (a Gorman Group Company) shared their insights on Lock Out and Tag Out Procedures during a recorded video presentation.


Watch the recorded Cross-Country Safety Share on Lock Out and Tag Out Procedures on the [BCFSC YouTube Channel](#). 

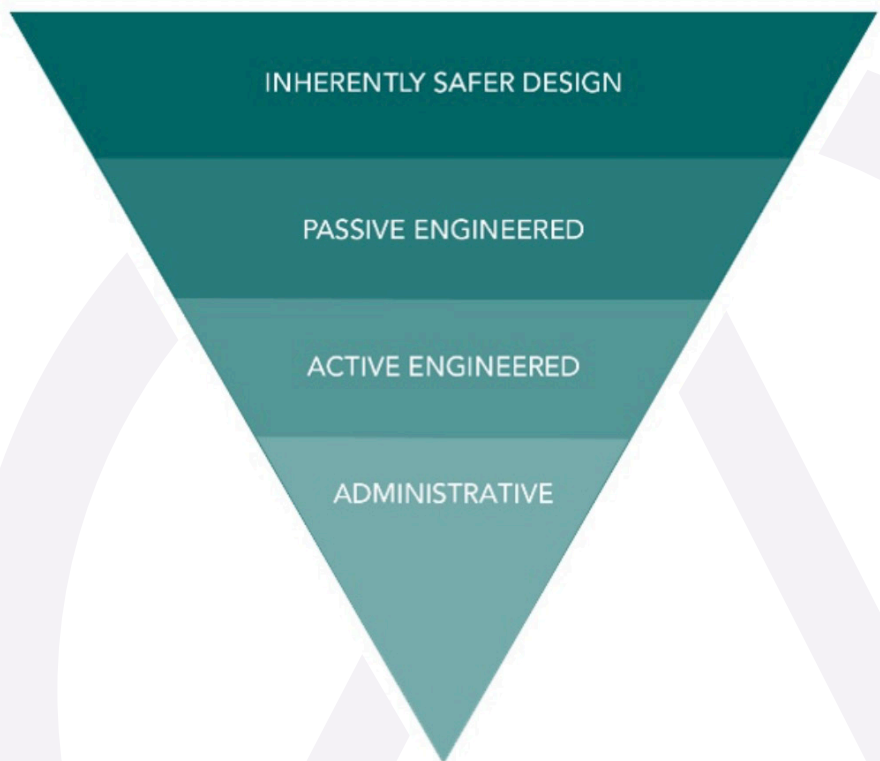
## New 15-minute Online Safety Huddles for Pellet Producers

Join the Wood Pellet Association of Canada on Nov. 16, 2022 at 11:30am for a 15-minute Online Safety Huddle. This Safety Huddle focusses on how to effectively integrate inherently safer design (ISD) at wood pellet plants.

ISD focusses on elimination of hazards and treatment of hazards at the source. It is based on four principles – minimization, substitution, moderation and simplification.

This presentation, led by Kayleigh Rayner Brown, MASc., P.Eng., a process safety specialist and Director of Obex Risk Ltd, will include a short rundown of the latest research on ISD and practical examples of ISD application. Funding for this research was provided by WorkSafeBC's Innovation at work grant program.

If you are a pellet plant manager, operator or safety leader, register for this Safety Huddle by emailing [fahimeh@pellet.org](mailto:fahimeh@pellet.org). 



ISD treats hazards at the source rather than only through add-on equipment and procedures. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 652 Standard on the Fundamentals of Combustible Dust (2019) states that ISD options should be considered during the design or evaluation of processes involving combustible dust. Photo Courtesy of Obex Risk Ltd.

# Five Steps to Enhance Safety of Direct-heated Belt Dryers

From Canadian Biomass Magazine - By Fahimeh Yazdan Panah  
Director of Research and Technical Development for  
[Wood Pellet Association of Canada](#)



Photo courtesy Pinnacle Renewable Energy (Drax)


As belt dryers have become more common, the pellet industry has experienced several safety incidents over the past few years. In response, the Wood Pellet Association of Canada has developed a Fact Sheet for the safer operation of direct-heated belt dryers.

Direct-heated belt dryers used in wood pellet plants present the risk of fire and deflagration that could arise from a range of conditions, including ignition sources entering the dryer through air intake, fibre infeed, or propagating from interconnected equipment.

The one-page fact sheet is based on the Belt Dryer Safety Symposium's working group's final report on belt dryer safety which reviewed the current practices and discussed controls and procedures for safer operations of direct-heated belt dryers. The working group also reviewed the positive aspects in safety, operations, and efficiency of indirect-heated system.

The fact sheet outlines five steps operators and workers can take to enhance safety of direct-heated belt dryers:

1. Monitor infeed contaminants
2. Maintain infeed equipment
3. Prevent ignition sources
4. Compete housekeeping
5. Communicate to your supervisor

View the [Safer Operation of Direct-Heated Belt Dryers Fact Sheet](#). 

## WPAC Conference Overview

Canada's wood pellet industry covered a lot of ground at their first in-person gathering since 2019. Around 200 industry members attended the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) conference in Vancouver September 20 - 21 to discuss the state of bioenergy and its future potential.

Speakers from coast to coast were invited to discuss topics on fibre supply security, local economic development, public perceptions, climate change mitigation and plant safety.

Day one of the conference featured industry and government speakers covering myriad topics including:

- Government Policy Priorities
- Community Involvement
- Social Messaging and Transparency
- Climate Change Challenges



Gord Murray, Executive Director WPAC

The second day focussed on Wood Pellet Industry Safety.

### Safer by design

Five speakers took the stage to outline best practices and ongoing projects to enhance the safety of pellet operations across Canada.

WPAC members take part in monthly safety meetings to check in on research developments and lessons learned. Bill Laturus, a senior safety advisor with the BC Forest Safety Council, said members should consider

themselves lucky to have access to these meetings.

"I really don't think another industry has anything like that," he said. Referring to his work with the pellet industry to implement a safety process called bowtie analysis and critical control management, he said the safety meetings, "set the stage to have the commitment and support from industry before we started the process."

Fike Canada's Jeff Mycroft summarized the findings from WPAC's Belt Dryer Working Group, urging producers who operate or are considering purchasing a belt dryer to read their document to help inform their decisions. The study tackles safety issues and hazards related to direct heated dryers, Mycroft said, but the takeaways are applicable to most dryers used in the wood processing industry.


**Continued on page 22...**

Kayleigh Rayner-Brown, principal with Obex Risk, shared her work advancing process safety management (PSM) in pellet plants in partnership with WPAC, Dalhousie University, the BC Forest Safety Council and Dust Safety Science. Her conclusions found that “explicit and effective” integration of PSM in wood pellet plants can help in

prevention and mitigation of loss of control incidents.

Mike Tasker, occupational safety officer with WorkSafeBC, outlined the role his organization took on to implement bowtie analysis in the pellet industry with partners like the BC Forest Safety Council. Initial momentum was slow

but, he said, but companies have since made significant capital investments to improve processes and lower risk.

Read the WPAC Conference Highlights by Maria Church in [Canadian Biomass Magazine](#). 

## Power of Pellets: Innovating Our Way to a Safer Better Product

By Gordon Murray, Executive Director of [Wood Pellet Association of Canada \(WPAC\)](#)

Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) members never stop working and looking at innovative new ways to make the wood pellet industry safer and stronger. The latest video in the **Power of Pellets Series**, *Innovating Our Way to a Safer Better Product* highlights some of the pioneering safety initiatives that have been released over the past two years that demonstrate this unwavering commitment. The video focuses on four main areas: combustible dust, deflagration isolation, belt dryer safety and off-gassing in transportation.

The video features stories from the people on the ground who are passionate about keeping each other safe so they can all go home to their families at the end of the day in the same condition as they came to work. I am proud of what we are accomplishing every day in safety from the forest to the pellet plants to ground-breaking research.



Dave Herzig, General Manager of Lumber Operations, Sinclair Group Photo: WPAC

Premium Pellets in Vanderhoof is one of the Sinclair Group of Forest Products plants that manufactures quality wood pellets for both domestic and global markets. As general manager of lumber operations Dave Herzig puts it, it's really about employees engaging in the safety culture. “It's safety by choice, not by chance.”

Premium Pellets production supervisor Mike Fantillo witnesses that culture change every day. “Everything that we do, starts and ends with safety so all of our people go home safe at the end of each day; everything that we do focuses on that.”

Safety, as we all know, requires us all to make it a priority. It's that collective commitment and action that influences outcomes and the successful implementation of safety management systems.

“Over the years, the most significant safety change would be the engagement at the floor level,” notes Herzig. “Trying to drive safety from the bottom up, giving people more autonomy over what they can control as opposed to that structure of top down.”

WPAC members openness to share and learn has galvanized much of this frontline work. In conjunction with the BC Forest Safety Council,

Dalhousie University, OPEX Risk, Dust Research Ltd., WPAC worked with a range of stakeholders in the wood pellet industry and combustible dust management sector to undertake a study examining deflagration isolation and how it can help enhance the safety of wood pellet operations. Much of this work has been supported and funded by WorkSafeBC.

In addition, world-leading research conducted by Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Ph.D, Director of Research and Technical Development for WPAC, has resulted in a new global standard in the safe transportation of wood pellets.

All these people who work tirelessly to improve systems and communicate best practices will tell you there is just no point in making a product if you can't do it safely.

Herzig sums it up: “There's a good group of people here that are passionate about looking after each other and doing the right thing for the right reason.”

Video: **Power of Pellets Series**, *Innovating Our Way to a Safer Better Product* 





## 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://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@bcforestsafes.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafes.org) or 1-877-741-1060. 🌲



## Keeping the Young Forestry Worker Safe

By Dr. Delia Roberts

Starting in January 2023, amendments to the Employee Standards Act will set age limits for some types of forestry work. Employees will have to be at least 16 years old to work in silviculture, wildland firefighting and jobs that require fall protection, and at least 18 years old to work in tree falling and logging, using a chainsaw or a respirator, or production processes at pulp, paper, saw, shake or shingle mills.

The aim of these new regulations is to improve the safety of young workers. About 13% of people employed in British Columbia in 2021 were between the ages of 15 and 24 years, and they accounted for 12% of the recorded incidents. In 2021, the injury rate in the forestry sector was 3.8; well above the provincial rate of 2.2. Young workers accounted for 13% of total claims in forestry and 24% of forestry claims are serious, which can have lifelong repercussions. There are some specific needs of the young worker whose bodies and brains are still developing and these differences may contribute to a higher rate of incidents for young workers when engaged in hazardous tasks.

Most 16–18 year-olds entering the workplace face a period of time where they are acquiring new skills and adapting to the many demands of their new job. Because these young workers may not have fully completed their physical, mental and emotional development, being aware of specific requirements over and above the needs of adult workers can help to keep them safe. Additionally, because of hormonal changes and the process of emotional maturation, decision-making in younger workers can be heavily influenced by their peers. Providing positive support and encouragement to these young people can go beyond the workplace to help them to establish lifelong, healthy lifestyle behaviours.

### Energy and Water Requirements

The base energy requirements for 16-18 year olds are generally higher than adults of the same gender and body size due to the additional energy required for growth and tissue development. The chronological age by which growth is complete varies widely, but most males reach adult height between the ages of 17-20 years and females between the ages of 15-18 years. There are also significant gains in bone diameter and muscle mass during these years. In fact, adolescent males and females can gain between 9 -12.5 and 5.5 – 10.5 kg/year, respectively. That takes a lot of calories!

Most of the studies on heat exposure and hydration do not consider the 16-18 year old age group. It does appear that children sweat less than adults and thus have to rely more on releasing excess heat by increasing blood flow to the skin, but whether this is true of 16-18 year olds is unknown. If some of the difference remains, it may mean that wearing

PPE that limits heat loss may be more problematic for this group when working in the heat.

The increased energy needs of the young worker combined with lower levels of organizational skills may create a situation where they arrive at a remote site without adequate food and water for the day. One might think that going hungry and thirsty for a day or two will reinforce the need for better planning, but for jobs with significant risk, the consequences can be serious. Both dehydration and low blood sugar can impair alertness, reaction time and increase the tendency to ignore risks, all of which can contribute to injuries. Should this be the situation in your workplace, it may be necessary to provide additional supervision, adjust the assigned tasks to lower the risk level or arrange for better access to food and water.

### Requirements for Specific Nutrients

Bone and muscle growth require specific nutrients that are generally met by a healthy mixed diet. However, diets lower in calcium, Vitamin D, iron and protein may lead to weaker bones and impair energy delivery. While these things may not contribute to the risk of injury in the short term, they may increase the severity of an injury if an incident occurs. Unfortunately, financial constraints or operating issues that prevent access to healthy food still exist in British Columbia.

Table 1. Recommended intakes for active people in late adolescence.

	Males 16-18 years	Females 16-18 years
<b>Base energy requirement</b>	$(11.1 \times \text{body mass in kg}) + (8.4 \times \text{height in cm}) - 340$	$(11.1 \times \text{body mass in kg}) + (8.4 \times \text{height in cm}) - 537$
<b>Additional energy requirement for moderate activity</b>	Body mass in kg * number of hours of activity * 6	Body mass in kg * number of hours of activity * 5
<b>Protein</b>	0.3 g protein/kg×5 per day	0.3 g protein/kg×5 per day
<b>Calcium</b>	1300 mg/day	1300 mg/day
<b>Vitamin D</b>	600 IU	600 IU
<b>Iron</b>	Recommend testing for levels of ferritin (stored iron) in vegetarians	Recommend testing for adequate levels of ferritin (stored iron) in vegetarians

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## Sleep Requirements

The impact of fatigue on performance and risk of incident is well known in the forest industry. Likewise, anyone who has raised a teenager knows that they like to sleep in. What you may not be aware of is that research shows 16-18 year olds require between 8 – 10 hours of sleep per night, and the average duration of sleep for this age group is typically only 7.5 hours. Furthermore, there is a delay in the biological timing of sleep that reduces feelings of sleepiness until later in the night. Because of the early morning start times for forestry work, it is very likely that most 16-18 year old workers will develop a sleep deficit with associated impairments in alertness, reaction time, cognitive processing, memory and mood.

## Brain Development

The hormonal changes that occur during puberty not only cause growth and sexual maturation, they also have a large effect on the brain. Areas that govern higher order thought processes continue to mature in 16-18 year olds. In fact, it is thought that development is not fully complete until around the age of 25 years. These structural changes in the brain are associated with behaviors that are seen in adolescents like impulsivity, risk taking, emotional reactivity, mood swings

and seeking peer approval. Although individuals develop at different rates, it is likely that many 16-18 year olds will still experience at least some of these behaviors. This means that they are less likely to assess conditions appropriately when faced with hazardous or unexpected situations, which may lead to increased levels of risk.

## What You Can Do

Nutrition and hydration are important for health and longevity, but are critical to the ability of staying vigilant on the job and reacting quickly and appropriately to different situations – for workers of all ages. Given the increased energy and nutritional requirements of young workers, make sure they are aware of the importance of bringing enough food and water, especially when working in remote locations. Similarly, fatigue management is an important safety topic in forestry industry. Young and older workers alike benefit from being reminded how important sleep is for workplace performance and safety. Encourage everyone to keep a sleep log and practice good sleep habits. Being aware that young workers aged 16 – 18 are still developing physically and mentally can be helpful in understanding the challenges that they face and in providing them with the support they need to be safe on the job. 🍏

# Mental Health - Having Courageous Conversations

By Stacey Sproule, Safety Advisor

The overall health of a workplace includes both the physical and psychological well-being of all workers. By treating mental health equally with physical health, a workplace can support the overall well-being for everyone in the workplace. Remember, poor mental health not only hurts the individual, but it also affects your bottom line.

Conversations around mental health can be difficult, but they are important to improving employee morale and creating a better workplace. Creating a safe space so the worker can share and discuss their concerns will foster a caring culture of support in which everyone benefits.

## How can employers support workers' mental health needs?

Ensuring workers are healthy and able to perform their duties to the best of their ability is essential. Employers have a

responsibility to protect workers' health and safety and that includes mental health.

There is no one "right way" to create a mentally healthy workplace because every workplace is different – from the people doing the work, to the work that needs to be done, to the leaders running the organization, the size of the organization - all of these factors play a role in mental health.

One way to achieve a psychologically safe workplace is to create and implement a Comprehensive Workplace Health and Safety (CWHS) Program. This program is a series of strategies and related activities, initiatives and policies developed by the employer, in consultation with employees, to continually improve or maintain the quality of working life, health, and the well-being of the workforce.

Some strategies for creating a positive space for protecting mental health include:

- Create a work culture that values people's input in all aspects, including planning, policy making and setting goals.
- Ensure managers and supervisors act to support the organization's values.
- Balance job demands with workers' capabilities and resources.
- Have clearly defined job descriptions to help people understand their roles.
- Provide leadership and mental health training for managers and supervisors to learn their roles in promoting positive mental health.
- Encourage and create opportunities for learning, skill development, personal growth and social interaction between all staff members.
- Address mental health hazards as equally as you would physical safety or other hazards.
- Provide opportunities or programs that assist individuals in maintaining good health such as a fitness policy, healthy food choices, hydration stations, gratitude challenges or wellness boards where workers can share their ideas on personal well-being.

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## What can workers do to address their own mental well-being?

Some strategies for workers to protect their personal mental health could include:

- Seeking help when needed. Talk to your supervisor, human resources, or health and safety representative. Use the Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) if available.
- Participating in planning with your supervisor to balance work demands and workload.
- Finding a hobby or activity that helps you relax and brings happiness and doing it regularly.
- Sharing your feelings with someone you trust or writing them down in a journal.
- Acknowledging when things are going well. Celebrate your successes.
- Getting to know who you are, what makes you happy and what your stress triggers are. Learn to acknowledge what you can and cannot change about yourself or the situation.
- Developing healthy habits such as regular exercise, adequate sleep and a balanced diet.

## How can I support someone with mental health issues?

People are often hesitant to reach out to help a friend or co-worker who is struggling for fear of saying the wrong thing, offending the other person, or worrying that you are not qualified to ask about their mental health.

However, simply asking someone “Are you okay?” is a great place to start when it comes to supporting individuals who may be facing mental health challenges. Remember, you don’t need to be a therapist to show compassion and empathy to individuals who may be facing struggles or challenges with their mental health.

## What are some tips for effective verbal communication?

- Focus your attention on the other person to let them know you are interested in what they have to say. Try not to share your personal opinions or experiences. Make it about them.
- Listen carefully. Do not interrupt with unsolicited advice or views.
- Be observant. Decide if it is a good time to speak, or if you should wait for a more appropriate time.
- Be aware of how you are delivering your words.
- Speak calmly, quietly and confidently.
- Use common words. Do not use official language, jargon, or complex terminology.
- Encourage the person to talk.
- Remain open minded and objective.
- Acknowledge the person’s feelings. If they appear upset, indicate that you can see they are upset.
- Try to understand. Ask questions like “help me understand why you are upset.” Once you think you understand, repeat it back to the person so they know you understand
- Remain calm if the situation becomes heated. Try to gently compose the other person and try to stay in control of your own feelings.

## What are tips for effective non-verbal behaviour and communication?

- Use calm body language. Have a relaxed posture with unclenched hands and an attentive expression.
- Position yourself at a right angle to the person, rather than directly in front of them.
- Give the person enough physical space. This distance varies by culture but normally two to four feet is an adequate distance.

- Get on the other person’s physical level. If they are seated, try sitting yourself, or kneel or bend rather than standing over them.
- Pay attention to the person. Do not do anything else at the same time such as answer phone calls, read e-mails, etc.
- Avoid challenging body language such as:
  - glaring or staring
  - putting your hands on your hips
  - pointing your finger
  - waving your arms
  - crossing your arms
  - clenching your hands

BCFSC has researched many organizations that can assist with those struggling with mental health challenges. Here is a list of information you can access to help both employers and workers.

[BCFSC Mental Health Resources](#)


[Mental Health Commission](#)

[Mental Health – How to Address and Support](#)

[Mental Health in the Workplace](#)

[Implementing Employee Mental Health Strategies in the Canadian Workplace](#)

[WorkSafeBC FAQ’s: Mental Health Claims](#)

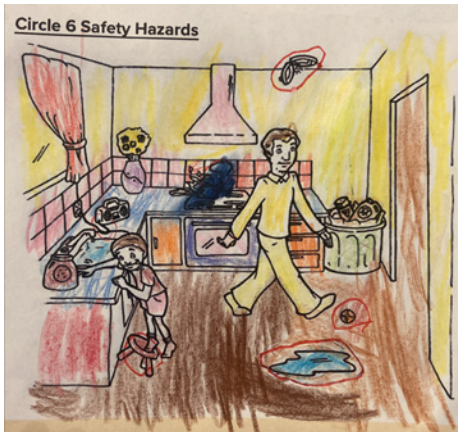
[Mental Health First Aid Course](#) 



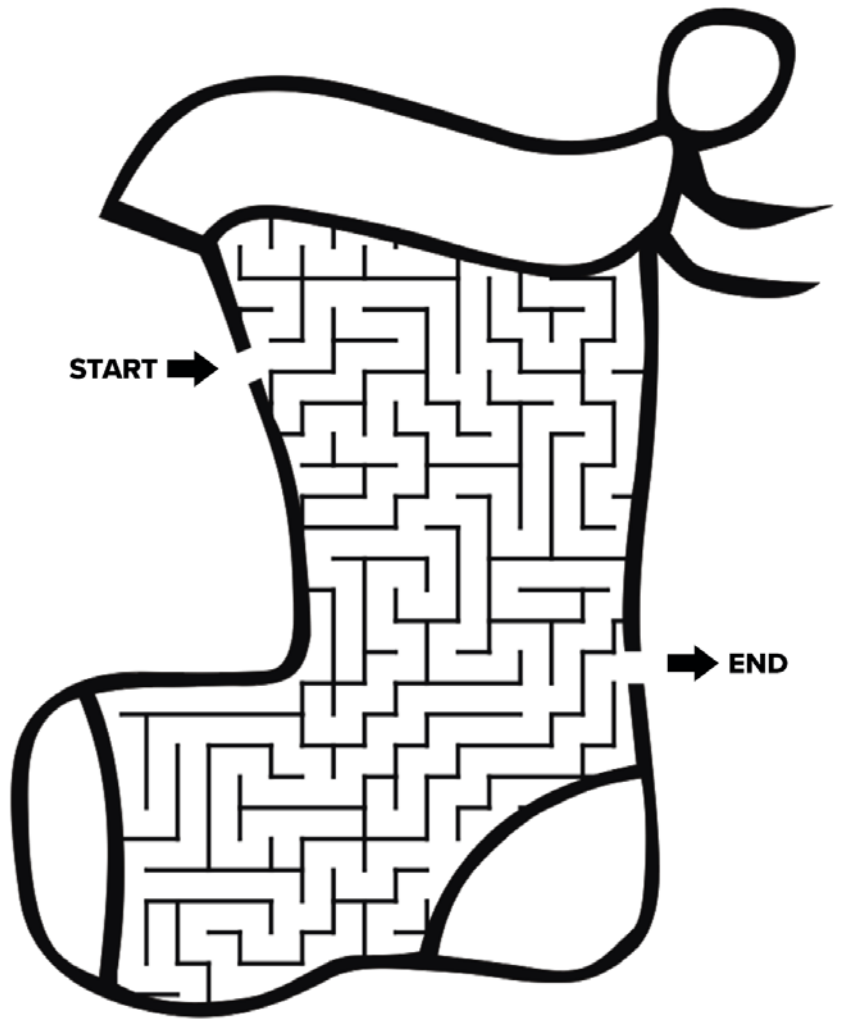
# Kid's Corner



Thanks to everyone who entered our September Kitchen Safety Colouring Contest. Congratulations to **Colton, age 6**, whose name was picked from our random draw. Colton wins the DRIVEN Toy Logging Truck and we will be sending a special gift to everyone else just for entering!



For our winter issue, solve the stocking maze and colour the picture. Send us a picture of your artwork and enter to win a DRIVEN Toy Logging Truck. Have your mom or dad, grandma or grandpa or guardian email us a photo of your artwork with your first name and age and we'll put your name into the draw.



## How to Enter:

- Solve the maze and colour the picture or send us your own holiday drawing.
- Have an adult take a picture of your artwork and email it with your name, age and your mom/dad's email address to [editor@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafesafe.org)
- Submit your entry by 4pm, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.
- Kids aged 3 – 12 are eligible.
- All entries will be put into a random draw to win the toy logging truck. The winner will be contacted via their parent's email address and the winning entry will be featured in the March 2023 issue of the Forest Safety News. 🌲

## ABOUT Forest Safety News

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Have a story, letter to the editor, safety tip, ideas or photos? Please send submissions to:

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