



# SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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## Weather Delays and Upset Conditions

AOM: 2022-11-21

The past few years have presented the forest industry with some unique challenges. Periods of high forest fire danger and fire activity kept many companies and workers out of the bush during the dry summer and fall conditions, delaying projects and leaving many in the industry waiting for rain. When it finally did rain, destructive heavy rainfalls seriously damaged resource roads and bridges.

Forestry is seasonal and cyclical, but recent extreme weather events have put additional pressure on all forestry workers. Weather-related delays can cause high-production pressure and a rush to get the work done once workers are back on the block.

How can we manage the production pressures and increased activity while ensuring safe operations?

### **Consider the following best practices:**

- It is tempting to work as much and as fast as possible when work is available; however, don't take shortcuts. Although shortcuts can lead to temporary benefits, they also greatly increase the risk of a serious incident, or worse.
- After long shutdowns, the pressures to "get 'er done" can be great. Companies want to get roads built, timber fallen, and logs to market. Workers want to get some decent paycheques to the bank. Other phases that follow behind you may want you to keep working so they can keep working. When it starts blowing, snowing, and raining hard, those pressures can influence decisions around weather related shutdowns that should be based on worker safety. It is important to maintain your shutdown criteria. Money problems can be very real, but not worth risking you or your fellow workers safety over.
- Increased pressure and additional work can be physically and mentally tiring for all workers. Monitor yourself and others around you for signs of fatigue. Be self-aware and think critically about the decisions you are making. Stress and fatigue can lead to poor decision making, potentially leading to safety issues. Be aware and adjust your work as required.
- Stress and uncertainty can cause mental health concerns. People can turn to drugs and alcohol to help cope or self-medicate. Be aware and have tools and resources available to help you and your workers deal with these issues before they become bigger problems. There are resources available on BCFSC's [Mental Health Resource Page](#).
- Work with your team of workers, suppliers, subcontractors, and clients. Communicate the challenges you face so they are aware and use their knowledge and experience to come up with potential solutions. This may alleviate some of the pressure and help to focus on safe operations.



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## BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

### BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[Training Course Calendar](#) – The 2023 courses have now been added.

[BCFSC FIRS App](#) - Forest Industry Reporting System is a FREE resource available to all BCFSC Members. Learn more.

[December Forest Safety News](#) – Comes out on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

[BCFSC Three-Year Strategic Plan](#) – 2023-2025

[Webinar Recording](#) – Tips to Successfully Transition into Supervision from November 17<sup>th</sup>.

[WorkSafeBC Manual Falling Supervisor Video Series](#) – New forestry videos highlight the importance of supervising to the level of risk.

[WorkSafeBC – New Requirements for Refusing Unsafe Work](#) – New amendments to the OHS Regulation clarify employers are now required to inform workers about a previous work refusal before reassigning the refused work.

### BCFSC Training:

#### Upcoming Classroom Training

**December 2** | [Basic Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

**December 2** | [Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism – Prince George](#)

This one-day classroom workshop will help participants understand their strengths and weaknesses, and to recognize how their personal style impacts the workers they supervise.

Refer to the [Training section of our website](#) for more information on upcoming classroom training and costs.

#### Online Training

**Winch Assist Training** – A free online course on safety practices to follow when operating winch assist logging equipment. It includes information on planning and layout considerations, anchors and wire rope inspection and maintenance. Click here to self-enroll: [Online Learning Centre – BC Forest Safety Council](#)

**Forest Safety Overview** – This free online training course provides an overview of the forest industry to help ensure new entrants to the sector meet the safety expectations and norms of the forest industry. Click here for the enrollment form: [Forest Safety Overview Enrollment Form](#)



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**Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor Training Program** – The complete set of six free online courses for the Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor Training Program are now all available at no charge for BC forest companies. Click here to self-enroll: [Online Learning Centre – BC Forest Safety Council](#)

## **Worker Assessment and Training**

Each forestry occupation requires different knowledge and skillsets to perform the job at hand. BCFSC worked with industry to develop competency-based standards, training and assessment tools to help employers evaluate workers and complete on-the-job training.

Check out our [FREE online training and assessment forms](#) for Basic Forest Workers, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting and Road Building.