



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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Avalanche Safety

AOM: 2023-01-12

As the winter progresses and snowpack levels increase, so does the risk of avalanches. Assessing and planning for avalanche hazards is required by regulation and is important to maintain worker safety. [BCFSC's Avalanche Safety Resource Package](#) is a great starting point to learn about managing the risk of avalanches for forestry operations. Also, check out the information below for additional avalanche safety ideas.

Avalanche Safety Considerations:

- Supervisors need to plan ahead and identify areas with avalanche risks before work starts. The [Avalanche Safety Resource Package](#) has a useful checklist tool that can help with this.
- When an avalanche risk is present, a site-specific risk assessment must be completed by a qualified person. An avalanche safety plan is then created which includes measures and procedures to eliminate the avalanche risk. If the risk cannot be eliminated, then an avalanche safety program must be implemented to minimize those risks.
- Changes in temperature and precipitation levels can increase the risk of avalanches. Include these considerations in your planning so you can react appropriately when conditions change.
- Often, avalanche conditions develop high above forestry worksites. This can make it challenging to assess the risk. Keep an eye out for steep, snowy slopes above you, avalanche chutes and vegetation damage which are indicators of a high-risk avalanche zone.
- There is more avalanche safety information available than ever before: avalanche forecasts, snow condition reports and avalanche incident reports. The [Avalanche Canada website](#) is a great resource that includes a map-based tool with up-to-date information.





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- When travelling on public roads and highways in BC, watch out for signage about avalanche zones. Use the [DriveBC website](#) to monitor road closures due to avalanche control operations.
- There is a lot to consider when working in avalanche country so don't hesitate to contact a professional to make sure the assessments and plans are completed properly. The CAA maintains a [list of Avalanche Safety Service Providers](#).



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BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[New Video: Molly Lift Strap Safety Inspection](#) - Lift strap (or molly) failures present significant safety risks to log truck drivers. This video explains an inspection process and shows what to look for and when lift straps must be taken out of service/replaced.

[New Video: Loader Assist Procedure](#) - Proper load securement is vital for safe log hauling operations. Back and shoulder injuries are common risks for log haul drivers when throwing wrappers. This video explains risk assessment criteria and a process employers can use to develop an effective safe work procedure for loader assist.

[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.



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[December Forest Safety News](#) – winter issue

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

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

[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

March 16-17 | [Forest Supervisor Due Diligence – Campbell River](#)

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

March 20-21 | [Small Employer OHS – Kamloops](#)

This two-day course is about occupational health and safety for small employers working in the forest sector.

March 20 or 21 | [Small Employer OHS Refresher – Kamloops](#)

This course provides a refresher for ISEBASE/SEBASE internal auditors.

March 24 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Kamloops](#)

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

March 27-31 | [Falling Supervisor – Nelson](#)

Participants will learn the roles and responsibilities of a falling supervisor and will become familiar with processes used by a falling supervisor to support their due diligence.

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

Online Training

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



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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.