



Safety Training 2023

In-person and online courses can help grow or refresh your safety knowledge

For over 17 years, BC Forest Safety Council has supported the ongoing development of confident, competent and well-trained forestry workers, where safety is integrated into every action, process and decision.

We now offer more than 50 courses to workers and companies in harvesting and wood products manufacturing.

BCFSC training courses help companies large and small ensure safety knowledge is at the forefront of daily operations. Our qualified classroom and in-field instructors bring decades of forest industry experience and knowledge to the table. Our online courses have been developed with industry partners and subject matter experts to deliver robust content tailored to worker safety in various occupational classifications from general forestry to supervisor training.

As a not-for-profit organization, our course fees are based on cost-recovery to help keep training costs affordable and we also deliver many courses at no charge.

BCFSC training includes a wide offering of:

- in-person training (classroom, in-field and requested training)
- online courses
- blended courses combining online and in-person training

Here is a glimpse of the BCFSC industry-developed training courses that will help improve and enhance workplace safety for your crew.

In-Person Training Options:

Our in-person training is offered in various locations all over the province and provides the benefit of interacting with other forestry workers and providing shared experiences. This enhances the course content as only in-person training can.

Requested Training: If scheduled BCFSC sessions don't mesh with your calendar or location, we also offer requested group/company training and can deliver the courses you want, at dates and locations that fit your needs.

Some popular in-person courses include:

- Forest Supervisor Due Diligence
- Forest Supervisor Communication
- Forest Supervisor Leadership
- Incident Investigation (basic)
- Joint Health & Safety Committee
- Small Employer OHS (initial, refresher)

Other courses such as Resource Road Safety and Driver Training and Basic Chainsaw Operator are offered through external training providers.

Online Training Options:

Our online training provides the convenience of accessing courses at any time and completing them at your own pace. Some of the benefits include:

- Self-enrollment and self-paced completion
- Courses in general forestry, harvesting, hauling, manufacturing, and more.
- 35+ courses, most free of charge

Blended Training Options:

BCFSC's blended courses combine online and in-person training which allows course participants to get a thorough knowledge base by completing the online portion of the course before participating in the classroom or in-field sessions where the practical components are taught.

Current blended courses:

- BASE 4 Internal Auditor Training
- Resource Road Driver Training (knowledge unit online, in-field course offered through Overland Training Canada)
- New Faller Training

Coming Soon:

- ATV/ORV Training is being piloted in April 2023
- Basic Incident Investigation blended online/virtual training is being piloted in March 2023
- Dangerous Tree Awareness online course anticipated Q1 2023

Visit our [website](#) to explore available BCFSC course options for BC Forestry workers or go to our filterable [Course Catalogue](#) for course descriptions and information. 🌲



Small Employer Occupational Health and Safety Online Training is Now Available

By Gerard Messier, RFP, BCFSC Program Development Manager

New employers looking to gain their SEBASE or ISEBASE SAFE Companies certification can now access an updated Small Employer Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) online training course. This new course explains how to build an effective safety program AND how to successfully complete the SAFE Companies audit.


Online learning allows 24/7 access to the course wherever you are. All you require is a good internet connection, a device with audio capabilities and enough time to participate in the training. This new online course offers foundational OHS training and features updated content with new OHS regulations and an updated course appearance to provide a better learning experience for participants.

The course has been designed to be more visually appealing to help keep learners engaged. It includes videos and interactive quizzes to help reinforce important concepts as well as narrated slides to help reduce the amount of reading time required for text-based information which should aid in reducing screen and learner fatigue. There is also a feature that tracks a participant's progress and remembers where they left off.

BCFSC SAFE Companies Advisors were actively involved in the development of the course content and contributed tips that will make passing the audit easier. The course includes a realistic forestry case study that features a company investigating a near miss incident and receiving advice from a SAFE Companies Advisor. The outcome of the case study showcases how a BCFSC Safety Advisor can assist companies with improving their safety programs with a focus on worker safety.

This new course was designed with the intent of providing participants with a step-by-step guide to follow for audit requirements with the end result of completing an audit submission. The training helps participants evaluate their current safety program, identify any gaps and provides resources (procedures, forms, policies) to help fill those gaps.

The cost of the new [Small Employer Occupational Health and Safety Online Training](#) is \$100 + GST and is accessible by completing an enrollment form located on the [Small Employer Occupational Health and Safety webpage](#).

BCFSC has also scheduled some classroom-based sessions in 2023 which includes in-person instruction, training materials, refreshments and lunch. The cost is \$357 + GST. Visit the [Small Employer Occupational Health and Safety course page](#) for dates and locations of the in-class training sessions. 



BC Forest Safety

BCFSC FREE WEBINAR

"If You Want To Change Your Culture, You Need To Change Your Questions"

The art of asking versus telling.



Hosted by: Shannon Overland, MA, CEC, ACC
DEKRA Strategic Consulting

Thursday, March 16, 2023
2:00-3:00 PT



Register Today


Utilizing open-ended questions is not as easy as you may think. Engagement - specifically how we ask questions - is critical to building the trust, psychological safety, relationships and accountability necessary for culture change.

BCFSC is hosting a free webinar intended for forest workers/supervisors in leadership positions. Join us for this presentation by Shannon Overland from DEKRA Strategic Consulting where she will help set you on a path to creating conversations that matter and will give you a clear outlook on how to create a culture of connection.

**Thursday, March 16, 2023
2:00-3:00 PT**

Register today

Shannon Overland, MA, CEC, ACC
Principal consultant, DEKRA Strategic Consulting

With over 30 years of leadership and management experience, Shannon Overland empowers and engages employees with proven learning, development, coaching and organizational change strategies. 

Closing Gaps in Safety Knowledge Through Worker Training and Assessment

By Gary Banys, BCFSC Training Logistics Coordinator

Completing individual worker assessments is an important part of a safe and successful forestry operation. One-on-one worker assessments are necessary to ensure there are no gaps in the knowledge, skills and attributes each worker requires to do their job safely and productively.

Forestry occupations require different knowledge and skillsets to perform the job at hand. Through industry collaboration, BCFSC has developed valuable resources to help employers evaluate and train their workers in a variety of occupations. These [free assessment tools and training materials](#) will benefit all workers and help make workplaces safer. Here are three examples of what BCFSC has to offer:

Basic Forest Worker Training and Assessment

Forest workers need to have knowledge of BC's forest industry, including: worksites, risks and hazards, regulatory requirements and standards required to help keep themselves and others safe on the job.

- BCFSC has a [Basic Forest Worker Assessment](#) that includes a competency conversation to support a supervisor and a worker in discussing personal and worksite safety. This can be used for onboarding new workers, or gauging understanding of current employees.

To address knowledge gaps identified by a worker assessment, or to simply provide introductory training to workers, there are two options available for training:

- Free online training in our [Learning Centre](#). This option will result in a Record of Completion being issued by BCFSC.
- Employers can download any of the 12 free [Learning Resources](#) to augment on-the-job training programs.

Light Truck Driver Training and Assessment

Driving on resource roads requires skills and knowledge unique from operating on other roads. It is critical that resource road users understand and follow resource road safety rules.

Supervisors can use the [Light Truck Driver assessment](#) as a competency check of knowledge for workers who operate pick-up trucks while at work.

Light truck drivers who require training can enrol in hands-on Resource Road Safety/Driver training through a 1-day

or 2-day in-person session. Professional instructors offer training throughout the province.

Prior to attending in-person training, the online Resource Road Driver Knowledge Unit course must first be completed. This course is free and is also available to employers who choose to provide on-the-job driver training internally, based on their operational needs and the knowledge level of their workers.

Visit the [Resource Road Safety web page](#) to learn more.

Quotes from course participants:

“I felt safe despite my inexperience”

“I feel more confident on the road after taking this training”

“Good refresher for long time drivers”

“Great course, very helpful in terms of forestry work”

“The trainer made sure the driver was feeling confident and comfortable. Took the time to teach and was very patient”

Marine-based Forestry Operations – Operator Assessments

Marine-based forestry operations have added safety challenges and risk factors requiring additional considerations for employer and worker safety. Operators of small passenger vessels transporting forest workers carry a great deal of responsibility for ensuring their safe transport.

Supervisors can use the following assessments as a competency check of knowledge for their workers:

- [Small Passenger Vessel Operator \(crew boat\)](#)
- [Boom Boat Operator](#)

While BCFSC does not offer training for marine based forestry occupations, helpful resources are available, including the [Marine Passenger Safety Guide](#) and [Key information for small commercial passenger vessels carrying forestry workers](#).

Look for an overview of worker training and assessments for other forestry occupations in the June issue of Forest Safety News. For more information about worker assessments and training, contact us at training@bcforestsafe.org.