



Assessment of Workers in Mechanized Harvesting Roles

Forestry companies using mechanized harvesting activities perform a delicate balance synchronizing productive equipment operations while simultaneously maintaining a safe working environment for all workers on site - whether in the cab or on the ground.

Worker assessments are pivotal to a safe and successful forestry operation. Professions such as feller buncher operator, skidder operator, processor operator, hydraulic log loader operator, forwarder operator and hoe chucker operator, as well as supervisors, rely on a solid understanding of the machine's capabilities to be able to recognize potential safety hazards to ensure safe operations.

Assessing skills, knowledge and experience will help identify any existing gaps that workers need to address to perform their work safely and productively to help ensure everyone on site gets home safe at the end of the day. The British Columbia Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) has developed a series of resources for worker assessments. These resources can be used to either enhance a company's existing assessment procedures or help forestry companies build assessment procedures from the ground up and ensure due diligence requirements are met for training and qualifying workers.

Throughout the assessment process, workers and supervisors can collaborate and evaluate a range of real-world on-site scenarios. The following is an example of how worker assessment resources can be used:

1. Supervisors can utilize BCFSC's equipment-specific assessment document to initiate a competency discussion with the worker.
2. Subsequently, supervisors conduct practical assessments by observing the worker's performance across various scenarios on the job site.
3. Supervisors can refer to the assessment document to determine if the worker has the skills, knowledge and experience to perform their duties safely.
4. If additional training is identified, supervisors and workers can work together to devise and implement a plan to upgrade the worker's knowledge and/or skills.

BCFSC also offers FREE online training resources to address any identified gaps in knowledge. BCFSC's [Online Learning Centre](#) provides an

extensive list of courses that include a record of completion to help both supervisors and workers track the progress of the identified gaps. BCFSC also has FREE downloadable resources to choose from for specific mechanized harvesting activities that can assist in on-the-job training and the development of a company's training library.

To learn more, visit BCFSC's [Worker Assessment and Training webpage](#). 🌲



Photo: Chris Cole, RPF, Peng



BCFSC Fall - Winter 2023 Training Schedule

BCFSC offers over 30 FREE [online](#) forest industry safety courses as well as in-person, blended (a hybrid of online and in-person) and requested training across BC.

Take a look at BCFSC's upcoming in-person training and enroll early to save your seat:

Course	2023 Course Dates	Location
Forest Supervisor Communication	September 21	Kamloops
Basic Incident Investigation	September 22	Prince George
Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism	September 22	Kamloops
Falling Supervisor	September 26 - 29	Prince George
Basic Incident Investigation	September 29	Campbell River
Forest Supervisor Due Diligence	October 11 - 12	Vernon
Basic Incident Investigation	October 13	Vernon
Falling Supervisor	October 17 - 20	Nelson
Forest Supervisor Due Diligence	October 18-19	Cranbrook
Basic Incident Investigation	October 20	Cranbrook
Forest Supervisor Communication	October 25	Campbell River
Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism	October 26	Campbell River
Falling Supervisor	October 31 - November 3	Campbell River
Forest Supervisor Due Diligence	November 16 - 17	Vernon
Falling Supervisor	November 21 - 24	Campbell River
Forest Supervisor Communication	November 23	Prince George
Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism	November 24	Prince George
Forest Supervisor Due Diligence	November 30 - December 1	Prince George
Basic Incident Investigation	December 4	Campbell River
Resource Road Driver Program - visit the webpage for more information		
Basic Chainsaw Operator Training - visit the webpage for more information		

Visit the [BCFSC Course Catalogue](#) for more information on course content, enrolment or group training inquiries. 📞