



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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Innovative Safety Equipment for Field Crews

AOM: 2023-08-23

Many high-risk in-field activities can be made safer and productivity increased by using innovative new tools and products. Here are some examples of how some forestry operations are using technology and modernization to help improve workplace safety.

Using Technology and Tools to Increase Safety:

- If you are considering using a new tool or product for your forestry operations, remember to thoroughly assess how it will be used and identify any new or unfamiliar hazards that can occur because of it. Conduct on-site worker training and ensure effective two-way communication to help discover and manage any unforeseen issues.
- Electric bikes are being used by many forestry operations with practical applications for in-field work. Traditionally, ATVs have been used to access sites along trails, deactivated roads or seismic lines but fat tired e-bikes are becoming more commonplace. They are light, narrow and very maneuverable, and they are much easier to transport and significantly less hazardous to load/unload.
- Some forestry crews carry chainsaws in case they need to clear blowdown that is blocking road access. Heavy-duty, two-handed folding saws may be an effective alternative for cutting larger logs and are safer for workers who don't routinely use chainsaws. Although these saws require more physical effort, they are quick to set up and use for small jobs. Note: Extra care and attention should be given to wood under tension and ensuring the worker is out of the bight when using this tool.
- Satellite messaging devices are widely available, many with two-way communication capabilities. Gone are the days of only sending a one-way emergency signal if you ran into problems. In the event of an emergency, workers can communicate exactly what is wrong and immediately receive feedback on the help they need without wondering if help is on the way.
- The drive to and from work is often the highest risk activity. Dash cameras are a great resource to keep a record of incidents that may occur while driving. Playbacks of recordings can help protect drivers and assist in incident investigations involving hazardous road conditions or other drivers.





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- Electronic traction control, forward looking sensors, trailer assist technology and innovative step and tailgate designs can all make driving safer. When purchasing a new vehicle, consider the available safety options.
- Technical outdoor clothing isn't just for mountaineers. Outdoor forestry professionals also benefit from the latest waterproof/breathable fabrics and insulating wear developed for inclement weather conditions. For hotter conditions, there are cooling vests and hats specifically designed to help bring down core body temperature.
- Using boots that fit the work task and site conditions is critical to prevent slip and fall incidents. Choose boots based on what you are doing and where you are walking. For example, caulk boots for walking on blowdown; warm winter boots for cold weather and snowshoeing; and something close fitting and responsive for driving. Ask your co-workers and see what works best for the local conditions.



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BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[Online Training - Introduction to Dangerous Trees on Forestry Worksites](#) -

Dangerous trees in forestry operations such as harvesting, silviculture and firefighting are high-risk hazards. If you work around dangerous trees - take this FREE course to help you understand the risks.

[Video: ERP Equipment Rollover and Operator Extraction](#) - This video focuses on the importance of including extractions in Emergency Response Plans. It features a logging crew conducting an emergency extraction drill. It demonstrates the process and tools used for a crew-initiated extraction as well as a self-extraction done by the operator inside an overturned cab.

[Operator Safety Training Fact Sheet](#) – The Wood Pellets Association of Canada (WPAC) and BCFSC have launched an industry-wide initiative that delivers a comprehensive digital e-learning safety training program for plant operators and supervisors across companies. Learn more by reading the Fact Sheet.

[September Forest Safety News](#) – fall edition, available August 31st.



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BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

September 21 - 22 | [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.

September 21 | [Forest Supervisor Communication – Kamloops](#)

This one-day classroom workshop will help supervisors and managers improve their communication skills at work.

September 22 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Prince George](#)

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

September 22 | [Forest Supervisor Leadership and Professionalism – Kamloops](#)

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.

September 26 - 30 | [Falling Supervisor – Prince George](#)

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.

September 29 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

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

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

Online Training

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.