



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Winter Hazards

AOM: 2024-01-22

In winter, forestry operations are presented with unique hazards such as cold temperatures, increased precipitation and unpredictable weather. Consider the following winter safety tips:

- Be prepared for shifting weather patterns. Watch forecasts and plan ahead for possible weather disruptions.
- Cold temperatures and windchill increase the risk of frostbite and hypothermia. When temperatures combined with wind chill drop to minus 40° Celsius, frostbite can occur in less than 10 minutes.
- Equipment and machinery exposed to cold temperatures are at risk for mechanical failure. Cold metal may become brittle and break and engines may be difficult to start which can delay work or strand workers.
- Stay off ice unless the thickness can be verified and confirmed that it can hold the planned loads. Be aware of variable ice thickness that occur across natural bodies of water and sudden changes in conditions such as cracks or pools of water on the ice surface.
- Resource road maintenance crews use snow and ice to create a smooth road surface, but these roads can also be slippery. Adjust your driving to account for conditions and use winter tires and chains to maintain traction. Gentle steering, acceleration and braking are essential to maintain control.
- Prepare an emergency kit with extra clothing, food, reliable communications and survival equipment in case you become stranded overnight in your pickup or machine.
- There is a risk of avalanches on steep ground where snow accumulates. Use the following resource to assess avalanche risks in your area. [Avalanche Resource Package](#)

Resources:

- [BCFSC Winter Safety Resources](#)
- [Shift Into Winter](#) – Winter Driving Safety Alliance





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BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[Online Training for Forest Supervisors](#) – We offer six FREE online Forest Supervisor training courses.

[December 2023 - Forest Safety Newsletter](#) – Read the winter issue of the FSN.

[Video: Successful Return to Work Strategies](#) – WorkSafeBC presents successful return to work strategies addressing collaboration between employers and employees and early rehabilitation.

[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.

[Updated FIRS App](#) - The second phase of the FIRS App is now ready and allows contractors to use FIRS to create, report and submit reports for injuries, near misses, hazards, harassment, property damage and wildlife encounters. Visit the FIRS webpage for more information.

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

March 21 - 22 | [Forest Supervisor – Due Diligence for Supervisors – Prince George](#)

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

April 2 - 5 | [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.

April 5 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Kamloops](#)

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

April 10 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Nelson](#)

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

April 11 - 12 | [Forest Supervisor – Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Nelson](#)

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

April 16 - 19 | [Falling Supervisor – Campbell River](#)

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.

April 25 - 26 | [Forest Supervisor – Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Campbell River](#)

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



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April 26 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Prince George](#)

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

April 30 – May 3 | [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.

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

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.

Take a look at our [FREE online training and assessment forms](#) for Basic Forest Workers, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting and Road Building.

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