



## Celebrating 20 Years of Training Excellence

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC), the health and safety association for the forest industry in BC.

BCFSC has been working with industry over these past two decades to help create a skilled and safe workforce, where safety is integrated into every activity and operational process. There are now approximately 60 different training courses for forestry workers including faller training, supervisor training, incident investigation, resource road driver training and many other general forest industry courses. Over the last 20 years, 40,000 participants have engaged in training opportunities to BC forestry workers.

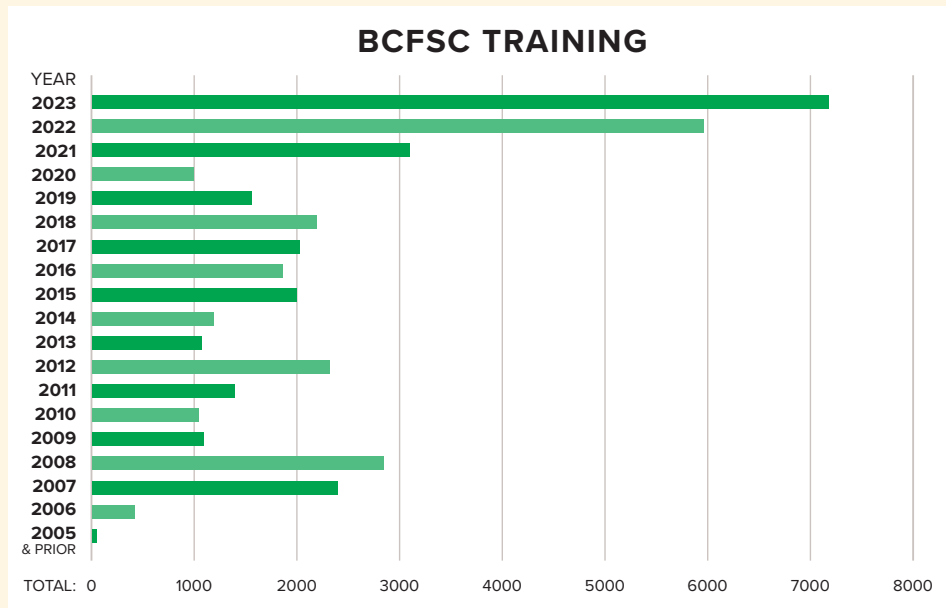
- A multitude of free webinars and workshops have been hosted that cover a wide range of topics that are relevant to the forest sector workforce and made available on-demand through BCFSC's website and YouTube channel to those who were unable to attend in person.

BCFSC training programs will continue to evolve and adapt to the changing needs and challenges of the forest industry and its workers. And we will continue to strive to remain a leader in safety training for forestry workers in the years ahead.

Our goals and vision of the future of BCFSC's training include:

- Developing and delivering new courses and programs that address the emerging issues and opportunities in the forest industry, such as diversity and inclusion, climate change hazards and new technology.
- Continuing to collaborate and communicate with forest industry stakeholders to identify and respond to their training needs and feedback.
- Expanding the online learning centre, offering more courses and resources that are relevant, convenient, and flexible for forestry workers.
- Enhancing existing access to our training through mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.
- Updating and revising existing courses to reflect the latest research, regulations, and technologies in the forest industry.

We would love to hear from you to discuss our training programs or provide feedback on the future of BCFSC training. Reach out to us at [training@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:training@bcforestsafe.org).



BCFSC's training programs have been developed with industry to support our collective efforts in creating awareness and improving the skills and knowledge of forestry workers from tree planters, hand-fallers, operators in mechanized harvesting, forest supervisors and wood products manufacturing workers. These efforts have contributed significantly to the reduction of injuries and fatalities. Some of the notable highlights include:

- Over 4,400 participants have taken the Forest Supervisor in-person courses, where they learned how to be better leaders and mentors in safety.
- In response to COVID, the BCFSC online learning centre launched in 2021 delivering training to more than 14,000 registered participants in various courses including supervisor basics, forestry occupations, SAFE Companies training, wood products manufacturing and other general forestry courses.
- Competency-based standards, training materials and assessment tools were developed with industry subject-matter experts for evaluating specific harvesting occupations such as yarding, heavy-equipment operators, log-truck drivers, etc. These tools ensure forestry workers have the knowledge, skills and qualifications to do their job safely and productively.

# Multi-employer Work Sites: Who's in Charge?

Forestry worksites are busy and dynamic environments. It's not unusual for multiple employers and contractors to be working on one worksite at the same time and involved in various sequential activities such as harvesting, road construction, silviculture and fire management. The importance of understanding and managing the complexity of a worksite while various activities are being undertaken requires a thorough understanding of who is responsible for both operational and safety management.

According to the Workers Compensation Act, the owner of a forestry worksite has possession or control of the workplace. The worksite owner, typically a licensee or tenure holder, has a duty to ensure the activities of every employer and worker are coordinated, and that the health and safety of all persons on site is protected.

## Prime Contractor duties:

If an owner hires more than one contractor to conduct forestry operations, they must assign prime contractor duties to a qualified contractor or other party through

a written agreement. The prime contractor is responsible for the coordination of health and safety activities for all employers and workers at the worksite. Without a designated prime contractor, the worksite owner is the prime contractor by default.

Prime contractors must have established processes that comply with the Workers Compensation Act and OHS Regulations such as:

- » conducting risk assessments
- » developing safe work procedures
- » providing training and supervision
- » monitoring and inspecting work practices
- » reporting and investigating incidents
- » implementing corrective actions.

The prime contractor must also communicate and consult with any other contractors (i.e. contractors hired by the worksite owner or the prime contractor to perform specific tasks or activities such as log harvesters, log haulers, and road builders, aka ... sub-contractors), workers, and the health and safety committee (or worksite rep) to ensure all are aware of their roles

and responsibilities, the hazards and risks, and the established safe work procedures and controls.

## Sub-Contractor duties

Sub-contractors working on-site also have a duty to ensure the health and safety of their own workers and to cooperate with the owner and the prime contractor in coordinating health and safety activities at the worksite. Sub-contractors must also comply with regulatory requirements listed above.


By fulfilling their respective responsibilities, a worksite owner, prime contractor and sub-contractors are safeguarding workers and the surrounding environment. This helps foster a positive and proactive safety culture with the ultimate goal of ensuring everyone goes home safely after a day on the job, wherever that may be.

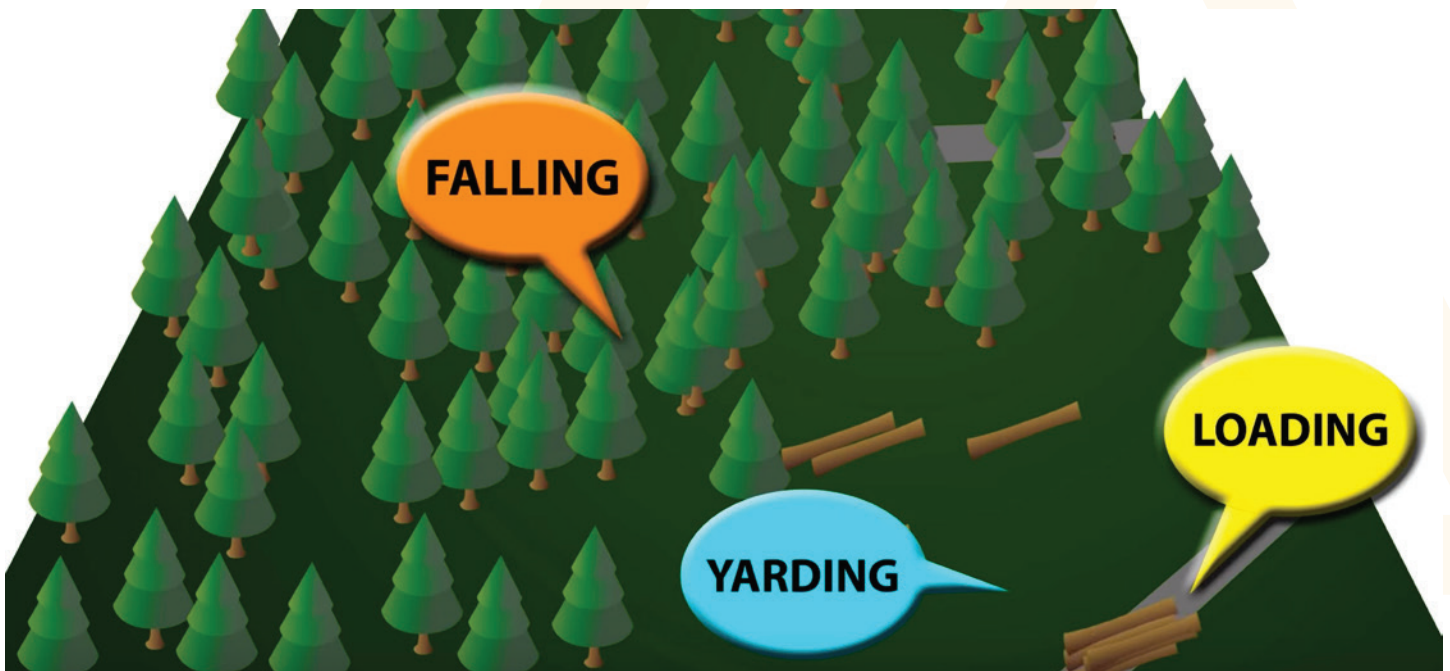
To help you plan for worksite safety, access these resources and checklists available on the BCFSC website.

[Prime Contractor Resources](#)

[Contractor Forms and Checklists](#)

[Site Planning and Hazard Assessments](#)

[Phase Congestion](#) 



# BCFSC Resources: Helping Workers and Companies Improve On-The-Job Safety

BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) works with industry partners, employers, workers and regulators to develop and deliver safety programs, training and resources to meet the needs and challenges of the forest industry. The BCFSC website is a great resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the BC forest industry's safety standards.

BCFSC resources can help enhance the skills and knowledge required to perform a job safely as well as foster a positive and proactive workplace safety culture. There is also a significant number of research reports and best practises expertise compiled by BCFSC and its industry partners, who are committed to making the forest industry safer for everyone.

The BCFSC website offers a wealth of information, tools and materials that cover various topics relating to forest safety. Visit the [resources webpage](#) and browse through the featured resources and the latest updates or search for specific topics using the user-friendly search function and find resources by topic, type or sector.

The following list highlights just some of the available resources. Click on the links and go directly to website resource section:

- **Audit Support**: This section provides forms and templates to help you prepare and conduct safety audits for your company or workplace.
- **Crew Talks**: This section offers short and engaging safety talks that you can use to start your meetings, shifts, or safety discussions.
- **Emergency Response Planning**: This section helps you develop and implement effective emergency response plans and prepare for various scenarios and situations.
- **Incident Reporting**: This section explains how to access BCFSC support for managing a serious incident investigation and templates for incident reporting and investigation.
- **Safety Tips & Tools**: This section provides practical and useful tips and tools to help you improve your safety awareness and performance.
- **Worker Assessments**: This section helps you assess the competency and knowledge of your workers in different roles and tasks.

Whether you are a worker, supervisor, employer or auditor, you will find resources to suit your needs and interests. We encourage all companies and workers to access the valuable and relevant resources BCFSC has to offer. Visit our website today!

And for the latest BCFSC updates and news on forest safety, follow the BCFSC on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). 🌲