



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Preparing for Wildfire Season

AOM: 2024-04-17

The record-breaking 2023 wildfire season presented significant challenges for BC's forest industry. Six wildfire workers were fatally injured and many others were exposed to hazards such as dangerous trees and heavy smoke. Share the following information with your crews and take action to improve safety for the upcoming wildfire season.

1. **Emergency Plans and Practice:** Have a plan in place to respond appropriately to wildfires at or near your worksites. Practice and test these plans early in the season to make sure everyone knows their responsibilities and can handle emergency tasks. Also have a personal plan in place for your home and loved ones in case a wildfire threatens your community.
2. **Smoke Exposure:** Workers across the province will likely be exposed to smoky conditions this summer. Attend BCFSC's webinar: [BC Wildfire Service's Mitigation Strategies for Wildfire Smoke and Other Respiratory Hazards in Wildland Firefighting](#) and learn the latest on how BC Wildfire is protecting their workers from smoke.
3. **Updated Training:** If you expect to be fighting fires this summer, now is the time to update your training. First aid, S-100 and dangerous tree training are all essential for wildfire situations. [Check out BCFSC's free Dangerous Tree Awareness for Forestry Worksites online training.](#)
4. **ORV training and SWPs:** There were two forestry fatalities in 2023 related to ORV use. These machines can be very useful but also have unique risks such as rollovers. Training can help ORV operators improve their skills and knowledge. Safe Work Procedures (SWPs) should be reviewed and updated to include ORV use on fire guards or deactivated roads.

20 YEARS BC Forest Safety

Free Webinar
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
2:00-3:00 PT

BC Wildfire Service's Mitigation Strategies for Wildfire Smoke and Other Respiratory Hazards in Wildland Firefighting

Presented by:

BRITISH COLUMBIA BC Wildfire Service | Canada Wildfire | UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Register Today



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- 5. Driving Safety:** Four wildland firefighters were killed in 2023 when their pickup collided head on with a semi truck. Driving is one of the highest risk activities for forestry workers. Make sure your safety program adequately addresses this risk with sufficient training, supervision and driver assessment.
- 6. Fatigue Management Plans:** Working long hours on a fire often results in fatigue. Address fatigue in your safety program by including direction on what hours can be worked, how much rest is required between shifts, being fit for work and what to do when a worker is impaired by fatigue.
- 7. Mental Health:** A busy wildfire season will be stressful and taxing for the people involved. Consider how you can support your workers and their families through a mental health program. Putting these supports in place now will pay off during the season when there is a shortage of time and resources.

Additional Resources

[BC Wildfire Service's Mitigation Strategies for Wildfire Smoke and Other Respiratory Hazards in Wildland Firefighting](#)

[Wildlife Dangerous Tree Assessor Training](#)

[Incorporating Fatigue into an existing Safety Management System](#)

[Workplace Mental Health Programs](#)

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[Video: Emergency Response Plan – Operator Extraction and Steep Slope Rescue Drill](#)

This video is the second in a series highlighting the importance of emergency response planning in forestry operations, particularly on steep slopes.

[Interior Safety Conference](#) – Thursday, May 9th, 2024 at the Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre in Kamloops, BC. Register before April 1, 2024 for your chance to win a BCFSC Stanfield and Toque.

The ISC is held in partnership with the Interior Logging Association (ILA) Conference which is celebrating its 66th Annual AGM and Convention from May 9 – 11 in Kamloops, BC.

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

[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. The update also includes managing equipment logs and meeting minutes. Visit the FIRS webpage for more information.



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[Forestry Workers' Perceptions on Safety Survey – UBC and the Korea Forest Service have collaborated on a survey](#) to research the safety perceptions of forestry workers in BC and South Korea. Take the survey and have your say - [Survey link \(deadline April 30, 2024\)](#)

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

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.

May 3 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

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

May 8 | [Basic Incident Investigation – Nelson](#)

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

May 9 – 10 | [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.

June 6 – 7 | [Forest Supervisor – Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Kamloops](#)

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