



# SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

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## Equipment Operator Escape and Extrication

AOM: 2024-05-15

The use of heavy, mobile equipment is very common in forestry. Equipment operators are often working in remote locations that can be difficult to access if something goes wrong. The following tips will help workers and supervisors prepare for emergencies, including incidents like rollovers or fires.

### 1. Emergency Response Plans (ERPs):

ERPs often include wildfire and spill response procedures, but they should also include recommendations for responding to mobile equipment emergencies. Update your procedures to include responding to equipment fires or rollovers.

### 2. Tools and Emergency Equipment:

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) requires feller bunchers, harvesters and some processors (those with a risk of rollover that are not operating on a road or landing) to be equipped with specific emergency equipment including:

- A powered cutting tool inside the cab capable of cutting through steel guard bars and polycarbonate windows
- A fire extinguisher (at least 4-A:60-B:C) mounted outside the cab
- An engine fire suppression system (for equipment manufactured after September 1, 2023)

Other helpful tools include a seatbelt cutter, impact driver for removing guards and windows, extra fire extinguishers and first aid supplies.

All equipment must be secured but still easy to access, so that it doesn't come loose during a rollover and cause injury.

### 3. Drills and Practice:

Effective evacuation drills are critical for preparing operators to respond to emergencies. Consider the following:

- Conduct evacuation drills regularly to test response plans and reveal any deficiencies.
- Practice escape and extrication procedures on steep slopes and confined spaces, as these situations pose unique challenges.
- Ensure all operators practice emergency escape options and communication protocols.

### 4. Inspection and Maintenance:

Escape hatches and secondary exits need to be inspected and tested regularly to ensure they can be opened easily. Include these checks as part of the





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regular maintenance schedule. Over time, escape hatches can become more difficult to open so pay particular attention to older machines.

## 5. Steep slopes:

Operating on steep slopes increases the risk of rollovers. Make sure a thorough steep slope logging plan is in place with all hazards identified and site-specific procedures to manage those hazards.

## 6. Equipment Fires:

Prevent fires before they start by practicing good housekeeping and maintenance. For example: repair damaged wiring and areas with leaking fluids. Also, clean the machine when there is an accumulation of flammable debris like needles and small branches.

### Additional Resources:

[Occupational Health and Safety Regulation – Section 16.38 Rollover or tipover and fire](#)

[Video: ERP – Equipment Rollover and Operator Extraction Procedures](#)

[Video: ERP – Operator Extraction and Steep Slope Rescue Drill](#)

[Steep Slope Logging Resource Package – Includes assessment checklist and example procedures](#)

[FPInnovations; Feller Buncher Rollover: Egress & Fire Suppression Report](#)

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## BCFSC LATEST NEWS & RESOURCES

[FIRS App](#) - the full version of the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) Forest Incident Reporting System App is now available to download from your App store. Use the FIRS App to manage forms and documents for safety-related paperwork related to SAFE Companies audit submissions.

[Forest Safety News \(FSN\) | June Issue](#) – the summer edition of the FSN is now available. Download a copy and share it with your peers.

[Load Securement Contractor Toolboxes](#) – visit the BCFSC YouTube channel to find our Load Securement Toolbox Videos demonstrating various methods to throw wrappers to help reduce shoulder and musculoskeletal injuries (MSI).

[BC Wildfire Service's Mitigation Strategies for Wildfire Smoke and Other Respiratory Hazards in Wildland Firefighting](#) – watch the webinar recording from May 1<sup>st</sup> featuring Drew Lichty, an Occupational Hygienist at Canada Wildfire, and Steve Lemon, Superintendent of Safety & Wellbeing at BC Wildfire Service discussing the challenges posed by wildfire smoke exposure in the context of wildland firefighting.

[Register](#) for Road Safety At Work's free webinar "[Putting the Brakes on Aggressive Driving](#)," Wednesday, June 19, 2024 | 10:00am to 11:00am.



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## BCFSC TRAINING

### Upcoming Classroom Training

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.