

## Wildfire Activity Forecasted into Early Fall

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is forecasting cooler and wetter weather for September and October in British Columbia. While this is positive news for BC Wildfire crews, severe drought conditions persist in many regions, including northeastern and southern BC.

Drought conditions have been ongoing since last winter in high-risk areas. Despite near-normal spring temperatures, several regions experienced drier-than-normal conditions, making them susceptible to wildfires well into the fall.

The ongoing drought heightens the risk of existing or new fires growing, particularly in areas prone to daytime thunderstorms and strong winds.

Given the ongoing risk, staying vigilant in helping to prevent human-caused fires is essential in managing and mitigating wildfire risks in our communities. It is crucial for everyone to prepare for potential impacts that could continue into the fall. You can help by reporting any columns of smoke through the BC Wildfire mobile app (please include photos) or by calling \*5555 or 1-800-663-5555.

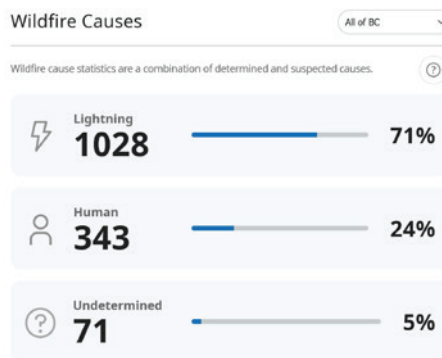


Welcome to the Fall edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at [editor@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafe.org) or call 1-877-741-1060.

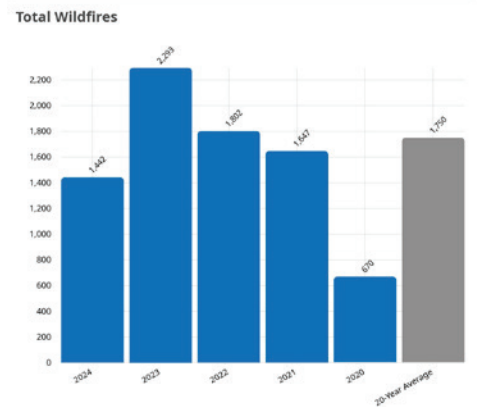
### What's Inside:

- 1 - 7 Harvesting Safety
- 8 - 9 Work-Related Deaths & Injuries
- 10 - 11 SAFE Companies
- 12 - 14 Falling
- 15 - 19 Transportation Safety
- 20 - 22 Manufacturing Safety
- 23 - 25 Training
- 26 - 28 Health & Wellness
- 29 Kid's Corner

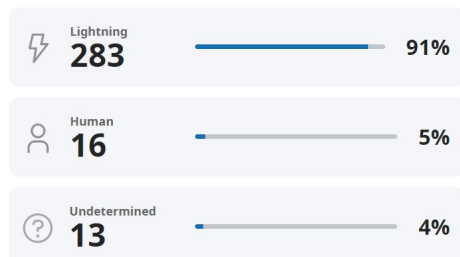
### 2024 At A Glance



### Historical Comparison



### Active Wildfires as of August 29, 2024

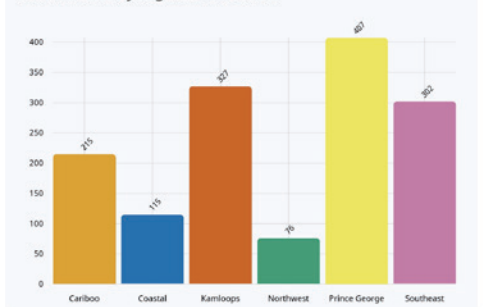


### Fire Centre Statistics

The province is divided into six regional fire centres. Each fire centre is responsible for wildfire management within its boundaries.



### Total Wildfires by Regional Fire Centre





BC Forest Safety



# Celebrating 20 Years of Safety: A Reflection

by Reid Hedlund, BCFSC Board Member

As the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) celebrates its 20th anniversary, board member Reid Hedlund reflects on his two decades of dedication to the organization and the BC forest industry. Reid shares his insights into the necessity of BCFSC, its formation, and the importance of maintaining a strong focus on safety.

In 1999, WorkSafeBC recognized the need for a dedicated safety association for the forest industry, leading to the creation of the Forest Industry Safety Association (FISA). This initiative quickly garnered support from forestry companies across northern and southern interior BC, including members of the Interior Logging Association and the Truck Loggers Association. Reid joined FISA as a Director, helping to shape its early efforts.

FISA and WorkSafeBC began sharing injury and fatality incident details, closely evaluating the data to identify patterns and areas of focus. The urgency of FISA's mission became starkly clear in 2005 when the forest industry faced a crisis with 34 fatalities in a single year. The BC labour minister called in key forestry sector representatives, including support from WorkSafeBC, to develop the Forest Safety Accord. The Accord identified 20 recommendations to establish critical safety protocols to help prevent further tragedies, including the establishment of a dedicated Health and Safety Association focused solely on ensuring forestry workers' safety.

FISA then transitioned into the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC). With coastal forestry involvement, industry leaders and representatives across the province began working as a united front with BCFSC's dedicated staff to collaborate on best practices in safety. This mindset, established in 2004, continues to this day, 20 years later.

However, there were growing pains. It took several years for the industry to fully embrace BCFSC's safety programs, such as SAFE Companies Certification and Faller Certification. These initiatives were initially viewed as time-consuming and detracting from production hours. But once the industry saw the positive results of adopting these safety programs, including a reduction in injury time, it became clear that a strong safety culture was beneficial in the long run.

The journey is far from over. Reid reminds us that there is still progress to be made, especially among smaller employers and contractors (2-5 employees). There is no time to rest on our laurels. We must continue to work together, share information, and make safety the number one priority to ensure every forestry worker goes home safe - every day. 🌲

## What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since June 2024. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

### Leadership in Safety Award

**Nominations** – nominations for leaders in forestry safety. Recognize an individual, crew, team, division, contractor, company, etc. for their commitment to safety in the workplace. Nominations for the Cary White

Lifetime Achievement Award, Forest Safety MSP and Manufacturing MVP are now open. Email your nomination to [info@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:info@bcforestsafesafe.org).

**BCFSC Annual Report** – the 2023 BCFSC Annual Report is now available on our website. Read it online or download a copy.

**BC Forest Industry Statistics - Lost Time Injury Fact Sheets** – Download the 2023 Lost Time Injury Fact Sheets for Harvesting, Manual Tree Felling, Mechanized Harvesting, Log Hauling and more.

Register for the **First Aid: The Latest Updates for BC's Occupational First Aid Regulations** webinar for wood products manufacturing Sept 26 from 10:00am - 11:00am PST. And keep checking the

BCFSC website for information on our First Aid webinar coming up in early October specific to harvesting.

**BCFSC FIRS (Forest Industry Reporting System) App** – the full version of the BCFSC FIRS 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.

**Training Calendar** – Our 2024 Fall Training Calendar is now fully loaded and offers both in-person and online courses. We also provide requested training bringing courses directly to your preferred location at a convenient time that works for you.

*Continued on page 3...*



# Harvesting Safety



Continued from page 2...

**Safety Alerts** – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other’s experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** – Click on the link to see the latest monthly safety alert from BCFSC
- **Industry Alert** – Click on the link to see the latest industry provided safety alerts

To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)

## Upcoming Industry Conferences

### Wood Pellets Association of Canada (WPAC) AGM & Conference

Sept. 17–18, 2023 | Victoria, BC

### BC Safety Committee Conference | October 22, 2024 | Langley, BC

### 2024 Vancouver Island Safety Conference

*Bridging Generations in Today’s Safety Culture* | Oct 26, 2024 | Nanaimo, BC

## Industry News

Get the latest on industry news from:

**WorkSafeBC Enews** – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC’s policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.

**WorkSafe Magazine** – WorkSafeBC publishes *WorkSafe Magazine* six times a year to inform, inspire and provide practical tips on a range of topical occupational health and safety matters. It’s free to [subscribe](#) and available online.

**Tree Frog Forestry News** – daily news with top stories and full news stories on the forest sector in North America and around the world.

**Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)** – FESBC shares news and information about BC forestry.

**Truck Loggers Association (TLA)** – a monthly newsletter and 1/4ly magazine (Truck Logger BC) offering stories from BC provincial forestry perspectives, information and updates.

**Interior Logging Association** – the ILA insider is a 1/4ly newsletter featuring timber harvesting news, information and updates throughout BC.

**Western Forestry Contractors’ Association** – The Cache is an online space to share wisdom, experience, information, tools and resources generated by the silviculture community.

**Wood Products Association of Canada (WPAC) News** – read the latest news from WPAC and subscribe to receive the WPAC newsletter.

## Industry Links

**Road Safety at Work** – visit Road Safety at Work for resources, webinars, workshops and news relating to road safety for you and your employees.

**WorkSafeBC Announcements** – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more. 🚗

# Back to School Road Safety is a Shared Responsibility

As the new school year approaches, the RCMP reminds students, parents, and motorists that we all have a role to play in ensuring students head back to school safely.

## School Zone Speed Limits

Drivers are reminded that school zone speed limits of 30 km/hr are in effect on school days. These times can vary across different communities in BC, with some school zones active from 7:30 am to 5 pm, and others from 8 am to 5 pm. Be aware of the specific times for school zones in your area.

## Increased Traffic and Vigilance

As kids return to the classroom, we can expect more traffic, school buses, and kids on the roads, especially during rush-hour commutes. Drivers are urged to be cautious and to remain watchful for kids on the roadways. Speeding through school zones and failing to stop for school buses are not only dangerous but also illegal.

Let’s make sure kids have a safe return to school by doing our part to keep our speed down and our eyes on the road. 🚗



Vernon RCMP Photo

# A Change of Seasons Brings a Change in Driving

No matter what part of the province you live in, as summer transitions into fall, the coming autumn months will bring rain, fog, and wind, paving the way for winter's snowy and icy conditions. As the roads become slick and visibility is reduced, your vehicle's handling will be put to the test. So, when the rain starts to fall and the fog starts rolling in, remember to drive with extra caution.

## Slippery Roads Ahead

Extended dry spells during summer lead to a build-up of substances like oil, grease, rubber, and tar on road surfaces. When the rain begins, this build-up rises to the surface, making roads very slippery.

## Hazardous Driving Months

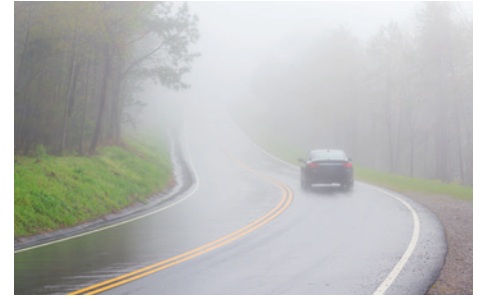
As days get darker earlier and skies turn gray, October, November, and

December become the most dangerous driving months. Nearly 30% of all work-related motor-vehicle incidents resulting in injury and time-loss claims occur during these three months.

## Shift Into Winter: Winter Tire Regulations

October 1st marks the day to install winter tires. Here are the Winter Tire Regulations:

- **BC provincial law** requires vehicles to use winter tires from October 1 through April 30 on most highways. The requirement ends March 31 for select highways not traveling through mountain passes or high snowfall areas.
- **Driver Responsibility:** Drivers must understand the conditions on roads they regularly drive and equip their vehicles accordingly.



- **Compliance:** Follow the rules wherever you drive. Check the routes you'll be driving before the October 1 deadline and obey roadside signs.

Learn more about winter driving safety by visiting the [Shift Into Winter website](#) and find out about designated winter tire and chain routes, winter tire regulations and the responsibilities of employers and employees who drive for work. 🚗

# VISC is Coming Up October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Register Early and You Could Win!

The 2024 Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC) is coming up on Saturday, October 26th in Nanaimo at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre.

This FREE full-day, in-person conference is open to all BC forestry workers and features forestry-related safety topics focussing around this year's theme - *Bridging Generations in Today's Safety Culture*.

VISC features a variety of engaging speakers, a trade show with targeted forestry-related safety products and services as well as:

- Refreshments and lunch for conference attendees
- A silent auction with proceeds to KidSport Nanaimo
- 50/50 draw
- Door prizes and more

This year, VISC features three keynote speakers: health and safety expert [Eldeen Pozniak](#), former US Marine and author of *Core of Four*, [Tim Page-Bottorff](#), and [Tom Wilson](#), who dedicated his life to promoting safety and understanding risk tolerance after surviving a plane crash in 2008 and chronicled his experience in his 2015 book, *Moments of Impact*.



## Early Bird Registration

Register before September 15th and you could win a coveted BCFSC Stanfield shirt and toque.

Register online today to save your spot. [Online registration](#)  
*Registration closes October 14th, 2024*

VISC supports the [Nanaimo Loaves & Fishes Community Foodbank](#).

Instead of a conference fee, we kindly ask attendees to bring a non-perishable food item or make a cash donation.

If you have questions regarding registration or sponsorship, contact the VISC steering committee by email [training@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:training@bcforestsafesafe.org) or call 1-877-741-1060.

# Nominate a Safety Leader

For over 16 years, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) has been recognizing outstanding individual safety achievements in the forestry sector. The Leadership in Safety Awards offer an opportunity to honor those who have dedicated their careers to promoting safety in BC's forestry industry, including harvesting, manufacturing, and lifetime achievements in forestry safety.

These prestigious awards are presented during the Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC). This year, the awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 26th, in Nanaimo.

We invite you to nominate a leader in forestry safety. Your nomination can be for an individual, crew, team, division, contractor, company, supplier, consultant, trainer, or any entity that deserves recognition for exceptional safety leadership or achievements. There are three award categories:

## 1. Cary White Memorial Award

This award honors an individual who has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enhancing safety awareness, expanding safety knowledge, developing safety skills at the ground level, and fostering a lasting culture of safety among BC's forestry workers. This person goes above and beyond to help others achieve their safety goals through their experience, knowledge, and supportive actions.

## 2. Forest Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to forest industry safety within their operation or company. The MVP could be a worker whose idea led to workplace safety improvements, a supervisor who consistently advocates for safe work procedures, a crew that has found ways to work more safely and productively, a manager who has shown a strong commitment to worker safety, a committee that has achieved safety improvements through persistent efforts, or a company that has demonstrated leadership in integrating health and safety into their business practices.



## 3. Manufacturing Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP)

Similar to the Forest Safety MVP Award, this award acknowledges an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to safety in wood products manufacturing within their organization. Nominate an individual, crew, supervisor, manager, or company that has demonstrated exemplary leadership in implementing safety best practices, protocols, or initiatives and recognize their outstanding contributions to enhancing worker safety.

To nominate someone, simply email us at [info@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:info@bcforestsafesafe.org) with the following details:

- Nominee's name (first and last)
- Nominee's job title
- Nominee's location and employer
- Nomination category (Cary White Award, Forest Safety MVP, or Manufacturing Safety MVP)
- A detailed description of the reason for the nomination
- Your name and email address

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, September 24, 2024. 🗓️

# WorkSafeBC Updates

## Occupational First Aid Regulatory Change Update

WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has approved amendments to Part 3 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, relating to occupational first aid (OFA). These amendments take effect November 1, 2024.

To assist you in preparing for the new requirements, WorkSafeBC is sharing information about the new workplace first aid curriculum and additional resources to help you understand the first aid regulatory changes.

For detailed information, please see the following on our website:

- [Preliminary OHS Guidelines for Part 3 - Occupational First Aid](#)
- [Backgrounder: Occupational first aid regulatory changes](#)
- [First Aid Requirements](#)

On July 2, 2024, WorkSafeBC made the CSA aligned first aid curriculum available to [training providers](#) in BC. Some providers may still need time to prepare the new courses before they can offer them to the public, consult with your local training provider to ensure they are instructing the new curriculum. However, employers intending to use intermediate attendants in advance of November 1, 2024 must also comply fully with all other requirements in the amended regulation, including, implementation of written first aid assessments and written first aid procedures – this is to accommodate changes to the revised Schedule 3-A, as the existing 5-day OFA Level 2 program is being replaced with a 2-day Intermediate first aid course, prompting adjustments to the minimum requirements.

### All OFA certificates valid until their expiry date

All OFA certificates are still valid until their expiry date. After October 31, active OFA certificates will become equivalent to basic, intermediate, and advanced certificates.

This means there will be OFA certificates expiring after the regulatory changes come into effect November 1, 2024. For example, an OFA 2 certificate issued April 9, 2024, will be valid until April 9, 2027.

### Extensions for expiring OFA 2 certificates

OFA 2 certificates expiring between July 2 and October 30, 2024, will be accepted as valid through October 31. You do not need to hold an Intermediate certificate until November 1. However, you must successfully complete the Intermediate course by October 31 to work as an intermediate attendant beginning November 1. This provision does not apply to OFA 1 or OFA 3.

### OFA training ends August 31

Training providers who currently offer the WorkSafeBC OFA courses will no longer offer them after August 31, 2024. Starting September 1, 2024, providers will exclusively offer CSA-aligned programs.

## WorkSafeBC Resources

### Updated OHS Guidelines and backgrounder

WorkSafeBC has developed an OHS Guidelines to assist in the application and interpretation of changes to the OHS Regulation. A preliminary revised [OHS Guidelines for Part 3 - Occupational First Aid](#) has been posted to the WorkSafeBC website.

There is also an updated [Backgrounder: Occupational first aid regulatory changes](#) to reflect the preliminary guidelines.

### Workplace first aid assessment worksheet

Effective November 1, 2024, employers will have a duty to establish their workplace first aid requirements in consultation with their workers. Employers will need to complete a written first aid assessment for each workplace.

This written assessment will help employers determine the appropriate first aid services needed to ensure prompt first aid treatment and transport to a medical facility. WorkSafeBC has published a [First Aid Assessment Worksheet](#) to document the minimum and additional first aid services required for your workplace.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WorkSafeBC has developed an [FAQ](#) on the upcoming changes to occupational first aid requirements. The FAQ includes key changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, outlines what kind of vehicles are acceptable as emergency transport, and when you may need to develop first aid procedures that account for hospital closures and diversions.

### Video resource coming in the fall

WorkSafeBC is currently developing a video resource to provide you with detailed information regarding the changes. Topics include changes to first aid assessments; training and credentials; equipment requirements; and workplace factors (including remote and less accessible workplaces). 🎥

# WorkSafeBC Updates

## WorkSafeBC Psychological Health and Safety Webpage

WorkSafeBC has announced the launch of a dedicated [Psychological Health and Safety webpage](#). This webpage can be used to learn more about psychological health and safety, WorkSafeBC's mental health strategy, and find helpful resources. Take a look at WorkSafeBC's newest resource – [Framework for Success](#) – that builds upon the three principles identified in the Mental Health Strategy and introduces five categories of psychosocial hazards.

The establishment of this webpage and key resource are significant milestones for WorkSafeBC. These two items are critical to positioning the work that will be done for years to come. The journey to this point has included many internal and external stakeholders, and WorkSafeBC looks forward to continued collaborations moving forward. 🌱

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## Board of Directors Decision - Permanent Disability Evaluation Schedule Policy Updates — Ongoing Review

On July 11, 2024, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amendments to the Permanent Disability Evaluation Schedule (Appendix 3) of the Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II, to enhance clarity and administrative efficiency for the loss of strength rating process. 🌱

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## BC Government Ends Public Health Emergency for COVID-19

On July 26, 2024, Dr. Bonnie Henry, British Columbia's provincial health officer, ended the public health emergency for COVID-19 and rescinded all related orders.

As a result, a presumption that a claim for COVID-19 is work-related will no longer apply if the exposure occurred on or after July 26, 2024. Going forward, COVID-19 related claims will be adjudicated by WorkSafeBC on the same basis as other communicable disease 🌱

## WorkSafeBC Holds Preliminary Average Base Premium Rate Flat for Employers in 2025

In July, WorkSafeBC announced that the preliminary average base premium rate for 2025 will remain unchanged at 1.55% of employers' assessable payroll. Subject to final approvals by WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors, this will be the eighth year in a row that the average base rate has remained at this level. 🌱

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## WorkSafeBC Magazine Summer 2024

Feature articles:

- Innovative safety tech built on firm ground
- Safety for roadside workers is a two-way street
- Protecting workers from wildfire smoke and heat stress

Get more WorkSafeBC Updates and News [here](#). 🌱