



Fall Is Around the Corner— Is Your Audit Submission on Track?

By Mike Sexton, SAFE Companies Manager

As we approach the end of the third quarter, the BC Forest Safety Council encourages all companies with a November 30th audit due date to start preparing for their audit submission.

While Maintenance Audits offer some flexibility in terms of submission timing, Recertification Audits have a firm expiry date. Waiting until the last minute can lead to unnecessary stress—especially if unexpected issues arise with your documentation or submission process.

Why Submit Early?

- **Avoid the November 30th rush:** This deadline can sneak up, especially during the busy fall season.
- **Time for corrections:** Submitting early gives you breathing room to address any feedback or required changes.

- **Peace of mind:** Getting your audit in early means one less thing to worry about as the year winds down.

A Few Tips to Stay Ahead:

- Review your audit requirements and timelines now.
- Ensure your documentation is up to date and complete.
- Reach out early if you need clarification or support.

If you have any questions or concerns about your audit submission, don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help you navigate the process smoothly and ensure your certification remains in good standing. Give us a call at 1.877.741.1060 or email us at safeco@bcforestsafesafe.org. 📞

Are You Compliant with First Aid Regulations?

The November 1, 2024 deadline to comply with the new First Aid regulations has long passed and all workplaces in BC should have implemented any required changes to meet the new regulatory requirements.

For forestry operations, the changes brought significant changes updates designed to enhance the quality and effectiveness of first aid, especially in remote, high-risk environments.

What Changed?

The first aid regulatory amendments to Part 3 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation are now aligned with

the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Here's what forestry employers need to know:

New First Aid Kit Requirements: All workplace first aid kits must now meet CSA standards. This includes updated contents, better organization and the inclusion of PPE. Kits that don't meet the new standards must be replaced or upgraded immediately

Updated Training Levels: The old OFA Level 1, 2, and 3 certifications have transitioned to Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. While existing certifications remain valid until their expiry, all new training must follow the CSA-aligned curriculum



Mandatory First Aid Assessments: Employers must now complete a two-part assessment:

1. A written evaluation of workplace risks and needs.
2. Consultation with worker representatives or the joint health and safety committee

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Emergency Response Planning:

The new regulations emphasize performance-based emergency transport requirements. Forestry operations in remote areas must ensure they have reliable and timely transport options for injured workers.

Annual First Aid Drills: These are now mandatory and must be documented. Drills should also be conducted whenever there are significant changes to work conditions or procedures.

What Forestry Employers Should Do Now

Audit Your First Aid Kits: Ensure all kits meet the new CSA standards.

Review Worker Certifications: While current OFA certificates are valid until expiry, plan for future training under the new system.

Complete a New First Aid Assessment: Use the updated form available on the WorkSafeBC website to guide your evaluation.

Update Emergency Transport Plans: Especially critical for remote forestry sites.

Schedule and Document Drills: Make this part of your annual safety calendar.

Need Help?

WorkSafeBC has developed a new form available on the WorkSafeBC website to help you navigate the new requirements.

If you have questions about how these changes apply to your forestry operation, or need assistance completing your First Aid Assessment, don't hesitate to reach out. BCFSC and WorkSafeBC are available to support you to ensure you meet the necessary requirements. 📞

Site Verification Audits: 2025 Progress

We are on pace to complete our 400 Small company Site Visits for 2025. We are continuing with BASE Gap Analysis audits for growing companies in 2025 with staff and 22 WorkSafe Initiated Verification Audits with External Auditors.

As we move through 2025, the BC Forest Safety Council is pleased to report strong progress on our Site Verifications. We are well on track to complete our target of 400 small company site visits by year-end—an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to safety, accountability and continuous improvement across the forestry sector.

Supporting Growth Through BASE Gap Analysis

In addition to our regular site visits, we are continuing to offer BASE Gap Analysis audits for growing companies. These audits are designed to help businesses that are scaling up their operations identify areas for improvement and prepare for full BASE certification. It's a proactive way to strengthen your safety management system and ensure your company is audit-ready as it grows.

WorkSafeBC-Initiated Verification Audits

We have also conducted 22 WorkSafeBC initiated **verification audits** in 2025. These are being conducted by external auditors and are part of a broader initiative to ensure that certified companies are maintaining the high standards expected under their safety certifications. These audits provide an additional layer of oversight and help reinforce the integrity of the SAFE Companies program.

Whether you're a small company undergoing a site visit, a growing business preparing for BASE certification, or part of a WorkSafeBC-initiated audit, our team is here to support you every step of the way.

If you have questions about your upcoming audit, need help preparing or want to learn more about the BASE Gap Analysis process, please don't hesitate to reach out. 📞

FIRS Dashboard: Safety Reporting Made Simple

The Forestry Incident Reporting System, aka FIRS, Dashboard is designed to help those using the BCFSC FIRS App to transform their safety data into clear, actionable insights. Built to work with the FIRS App, the dashboard can help you organize your records and create easy-to-read, visual reports that support better decision-making and continuous safety improvement.

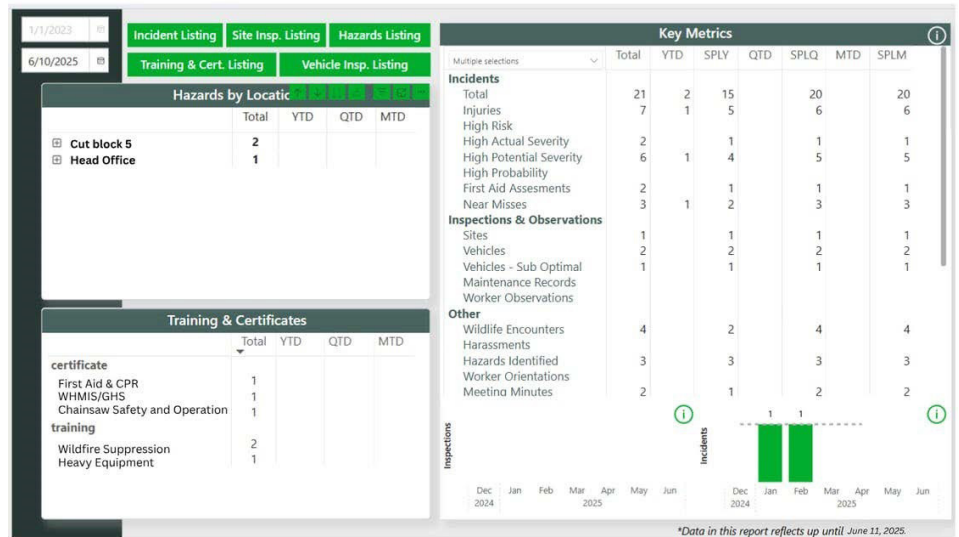
The more reports your company records using FIRS, the more robust and insightful your dashboard becomes. Whether you're tracking incidents, inspections, maintenance records or training and certifications, the dashboard helps you:

- Identify trends and recurring issues
- Monitor safety performance over time
- Support internal audits and compliance efforts
- Share meaningful data with your team or leadership

And with nightly data refreshes, your dashboard is always up to date with the latest information.

If you're a FIRS Admin, you automatically have access to the dashboard when you log into your EHS Analytics account using your FIRS credentials. And you can assign the dashboard to other users as well. Here's how:

1. Log in at app.ehsanalytics.com
2. Click the "tools" icon in the top right and select "Users"
3. Search for the user and click the "edit" icon
4. Scroll down and check the "FIRS Management" report
5. Click Save



Once assigned, the user will be able to view the dashboard using their FIRS login.

Note: Only users with the FIRS Admin role can assign dashboard access to others.

The FIRS Dashboard is more than just a reporting tool—it's a strategic asset for improving safety outcomes across your organization. If you haven't explored it yet, now is the time to log in and see what your data can do for you.

November Audit Coming Due?

Try using the FIRS App to collect and submit your audit documents using the FIRS App. Contact SAFE Companies for more details by calling 1.877.741.1060 or email us at safeco@bcforestsafesafe.org.

Start Using FIRS Today

If you haven't started using the FIRS App, get started today. FIRS is a FREE forms management mobile application designed to help streamline and reduce the amount of safety-related paperwork and administrative work required in the field. Learn more about FIRS by visiting [our webpage](#). 📱