



Father and Son Duo Deliver BCFSC's Falling Supervisor Course – a First!

Two generations of family fallers on the hillside made for a new dynamic at a recent session of falling supervisor training in Nelson, BC. That's because Nelson resident and BCFSC instructor Doug Harrison was joined by his son, Casey — also a certified faller. At the course, Casey served in the role of a hand faller being inspected during two days of in-field activities.

It seems only natural that Casey would learn the logger's ropes, considering Doug's background in tree falling and faller supervision — including as an instructor of our falling supervisor course beginning in 2012. Since then, Doug has delivered dozens of sessions to more than 400 participants.

Casey's journey began as a teenager, learning alongside his father about various forestry jobs including wildfire fighting and a variety of chainsaw work such as fuel abatement and silviculture activities. Afterwards, Casey worked on conventional and cable harvesting crews — furthering his knowledge and passion for the forest industry. He even attended the falling supervisor course in 2019 — with Doug as the instructor.

Another milestone for Casey occurred in 2021 when he enrolled in the New Faller Training Program. After becoming a certified faller, he and his Dad started working on becoming partners at work in the woods.

Doug shared his thoughts on what it meant to work with his son at the course and witness his skills as a professional faller unfold. "It was really cool to loop it all together with Casey performing the tasks of the faller over the field days. Seeing and hearing his knowledge emerge through his interactions with the course participants was for me a very satisfying and proud feeling."

As for Casey, he knew it was a special opportunity partnering up with his Dad at the falling supervisor course. "I felt accomplished in myself as the faller being observed at the course and I have to admit I was pretty stoked to see my dad proud of me."

BCFSC's Falling Supervisor Course emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of a falling supervisor, including two in-field days focused on falling activities. Participants

assess hazards, develop a site-specific Emergency Response Plan (ERP), observe tree falling, and inspect the faller's work afterward.

We're offering autumn sessions of the Falling Supervisor Course in Nelson and Campbell River. Click [here](#) for more information. 📍



Doug (left) and Casey Harrison



Hand faller Casey Harrison (standing near MTC) reviews equipment during a tailgate meeting with course participants

Logging in. Logging Out: Managing Social Media Risk in Forestry Operations

In today's digital age, social media is a powerful tool for the forestry sector. It can educate the public, connect professionals, and showcase the essential work being done in our forests. But with that power comes responsibility. Whether you're an employer or a worker, using social media thoughtfully is key to protecting safety, privacy, and the industry's reputation.

Imagine a worker posts a video from your jobsite — wearing a non-compliant hard hat, using inadequate hi-vis, running a saw without proper footwear — and the video goes viral. Would you be aware of the unsafe content before it posted publicly? A single post can spread in minutes.

Do you have a policy to manage situations like this? Are your workers trained to understand what's appropriate to share online? Clear guidelines and awareness can make the difference between a positive presence and a preventable problem.

This article highlights the benefits, provides guidance in managing the risks, and suggests considerations for getting the most from your social media platforms.

The Upside: Why Social Media Benefits Forestry

- **Promote Best Practices:** Share successful projects and safe work habits to inspire others and reinforce a culture of safety and efficiency.
- **Attract Talent:** Highlight your team's work to help attract skilled workers and open doors to new job opportunities.
- **Build Community:** Social media can foster a sense of pride and connection within the industry.
- **Public Awareness:** Educate the public on safe work practices in sustainable forestry, wildfire prevention, and responsible land management — reinforcing the industry's commitment to worker safety, environmental stewardship, and community protection.

- **Professional Networking:** Connect with peers, industry leaders, and organizations to share knowledge, collaborate on initiatives, and stay informed about trends in the forestry sector.
- **Showcase Expertise:** Share innovations, success stories, and best practices that elevate the industry's reputation.
- **Industry Advocacy:** Use social media to promote the value of forestry and responsible work practices. For example, [subscribe](#) to BCFSC's alerts and crew talks, follow our [YouTube](#) channel and/or follow our Facebook page and share important safety information with your followers.

The Risks: What to Watch Out For

- **Distractions on the Job:** Taking photos or videos during work can reduce focus and increase the risk of incidents.
- **Unsafe Examples:** Posts showing improper PPE or unsafe techniques can send the wrong message and damage the industry's reputation.
- **Privacy and Permissions:** Sharing content without permission—especially from private landowners or Indigenous communities—can lead to legal and ethical issues.
- **Misrepresentation:** Posts taken out of context may lead to public backlash or misinformation about forestry practices.
- **Employer Conflicts:** Unintended policy violations or leaks of proprietary information may result in disciplinary action.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Content that overlooks local traditions or Indigenous rights can damage relationships and reputations.

Considerations for Using Social Media at the Worksite

While not every organization will face the same challenges, the following practices offer a helpful framework for employers when shaping their approach to employee social media use.

1. Establish Clear Guidelines

- **Create a Social Media Policy:** Define what's acceptable to post, how to protect privacy, and the importance of professionalism.

2. Instruction and Orientation

- **Provide Instruction:** Orient workers on responsible platform use, privacy settings, and respectful communication.
- **Share Content Tips:** Encourage posts that highlight teamwork, innovation, and safety—without compromising operational integrity.

3. Monitor and Support

- **Regularly Review Activity:** Assign someone to monitor public posts and flag any concerns.
- **Create a Feedback Loop:** Let workers report issues or suggest improvements to your social media approach.

4. Respect Cultural and Environmental Contexts

- **Be Culturally Aware:** Avoid content that could be insensitive to Indigenous communities or local traditions.
- **Get Landowner Permission:** Always ask before posting content from private or shared lands. Consider proactive communication with local First Nations when appropriate.
- **Stay Updated:** Keep informed about evolving environmental regulations, Indigenous rights, and forestry policies.

5. Use Technology Safely

- **Operate Devices Responsibly and Comply with Laws:** Make sure any technological tools—like drones, cameras, or apps—are used in ways that follow current laws, safety rules, and ethical guidelines.

Social media can be a valuable asset in forestry, when used with care. By staying professional, following established company guidelines, and being mindful of risks, both employers and workers can help shape a positive, informed, and respectful image of the industry. 🌲

Sharpen Your Skills This Fall with BC Forest Safety Council Training

As the leaves begin to turn, it's the perfect time to invest in safety and professional development. The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) continues to lead the way in delivering high-quality, accessible training for forestry workers across British Columbia.

Whether you're just starting out or have years of experience, BCFSC offers a wide range of online, in-person, and blended courses tailored to the evolving needs of the forest sector. From chainsaw safety and incident investigation to supervisor development and resource road driving, there's a course for every role and responsibility.

Training Highlights:

- **Basic Forest Worker Program** – A free online course covering essential safety practices for new forestry workers, which can serve as a good complement to on-the-job training programs.
- **Basic Chainsaw Operator Training** – Hands-on instruction in safe saw handling and work procedures.
- **Incident Investigation Training** – An in-person or virtual instructor-led course teaching how to identify root causes and prevent future incidents.
- **Introduction to Dangerous Trees** – A free online course providing basic awareness of hazards related to dangerous trees in forestry operations.
- **Forest Supervisor Training** – In-person or free online courses covering due diligence, communication, and leadership.
- **Resource Road Driver Training** – Online and in-person courses covering safety, hazard recognition, and decision-making on BC's resource roads.
- **Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor Training** – Free online courses for supervisors in wood products manufacturing, including topics such as due diligence, communication, leadership, and contractor management.
- **Falling Supervisor Training** – A blended course combining online and in-person instruction (2 days in class, and 2 field days in a block-type setting). Content focuses on the roles and responsibilities of falling supervisors – qualified assistance, falling safety plans, ERPs, faller inspections and more.
- **Auditor Training** – Internal and external auditor courses for companies pursuing SAFE Certification and COR eligibility.
- **Occupational Training** – Free online courses supporting on-the-job training in yarding, mechanized harvesting, road building, silviculture, and more.

BCFSC's training is developed in collaboration with industry experts and is regularly updated to reflect current best practices and regulatory requirements. To support industry partners during challenging economic times, course fees remain frozen at 2022 rates, and many programs are eligible for funding through the [BC Employer Training Grant](#). Additionally, numerous courses are offered for free thanks to industry support and funding initiatives.

Group Training – Delivered Where You Need It

In addition to scheduled offerings, BCFSC provides group training upon request. Whether you're a small crew or a large organization, our team can deliver training at your location, on your schedule, and tailored to your operational needs. It's an ideal solution for companies looking to train multiple employees, often saving on travel expenses.

Why It Matters

Training isn't just about meeting requirements—it's about making sure every worker goes home safe, every day. By participating in BCFSC programs, you're not only building your own skills but also contributing to a safer, stronger forestry community.

Ready to Learn?

Explore the full course [catalogue](#) and enroll today. 🌲