

# FOREST SAFETY NEWS

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NEWS

## A Difficult Year: Six Lives Lost in Forestry – A Call to Recommit to Safety

As we pass the halfway mark of 2025, BC's forestry industry is facing a sobering reality: six workers have lost their lives on the job. These tragedies are a stark reminder that while we have strong safety systems in place, we must never become complacent.

Each of these incidents was unique in its circumstances, but they all share one heartbreaking truth: they were preventable.



### Lives Lost, Lessons to Learn

- January 17 – Quesnel: A contracted worker died while performing maintenance at a wood products mill. This was the first manufacturing-related fatality of the year and highlights the need for rigorous hazard assessments and coordination between contractors and prime contractors.
- February 24 – Vancouver Island: A worker succumbed to injuries from a fall during deck construction. Falls remain one of the most common—and underestimated—hazards in forestry. Even a 10-foot drop can be fatal in challenging terrain.
- April 15 – South of Kitimat: A hand faller was fatally injured. Falling trees continue to be one of the most dangerous jobs in forestry, especially when overhead hazards and escape routes are not properly managed.
- June 4 – Vancouver Island: An equipment operator drowned after their machine fell into the ocean. This incident underscores the importance of emergency preparedness and equipment inspections when working near water.
- June 19 – Central Coast: A tree climber died while working in a remote area. Tree climbing is inherently high-risk and demands strict adherence to safety protocols, equipment checks, and emergency planning—especially in isolated locations.
- July 10 – Near Powell River: A worker was caught between rolling logs and heavy equipment. This fourth harvesting fatality of the year reminds us of the dangers of crush points and the need for clearly defined safe zones especially in logging operations.

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@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafesafe.org) or call 1-877-741-1060.

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### We Can—and Must—Do Better

These six fatalities are not just statistics. They were people—colleagues, friends, family members—who went to work and never came home. And while investigations are ongoing, one thing is already clear: we must double down on our commitment to safety.

We have the tools. We have the training. We have the systems. But they only work if we use them—every day, on every site, with every task.

### What Can We Do Right Now?

- **Reinforce the Basics:** Hazard assessments, safety orientations and emergency response plans must be more than paperwork—they must be practiced on the job, every minute of every day.
- **Ask “What If?”:** Encourage workers to think about potential chain reactions and worst-case scenarios and work towards reducing the risks of serious incidents occurring by following safe work procedures.

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# Harvesting Safety



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- **Respect the Environment:** Steep terrain, water, weather and gravity are powerful forces. Plan accordingly and practice emergency response drills often to ensure everyone understands their roles should an incident occur.
- **Support Each Other:** Safety is a shared responsibility. Speak up, look out for one another and never cut corners. Make sure you follow safe procedures diligently. This goes for young workers AND for seasoned veterans. Complacency is just as dangerous as not knowing what to do.

## A Shared Responsibility

The loss of six lives is not acceptable. As an industry, we must treat this as a wake-up call. Let's honour those we've lost by making sure we do everything in our power to prevent further tragedies.

Let's recommit to safety—not just in policy, but in practice.

## BCFSC Resources:

Use these available resources from the BCFSC to help reinforce safety practices. These resources are designed to support supervisors, crews and safety coordinators in building safer workplaces and help us meet our vision where every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.

[Contractor Management – Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor](#)

[Identifying Hazards and Assessing Risk – Wood Products Manufacturing](#)

[Slips, Trips, and Falls Injury Prevention](#)

[Emergency Response Planning](#)

[Complacency Safety Alert](#)

[Complacency Crew Talk 🎧](#)

## What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since June 2025. 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](#).

### **Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC) – REGISTER TODAY.**

[Register](#) for the Vancouver Island Safety Conference Coming Saturday, November 1, 2025. This free, one-day event is a must attend to anyone working in BC's forest industry—from silviculture and harvesting to wood products manufacturing. This Year's Theme: *Facing the Future Together – The Human Side of Safety*. Take a look at the [agenda](#) and see what the day has in store.

### **Nominate a Safety Leader –**

Each year, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) shines a spotlight on the people and companies who go above and beyond to make forestry operations safer for everyone. The **BCFSC Leadership in Safety Awards** are more than just recognition—they're a celebration of the commitment, innovation and leadership that help shape a stronger safety culture across BC's Forest industry. Nominate someone today – [visit our webpage](#) to learn more.

### **EXTE COM90 Automated Log Load System Report**

– The BC Load Securement Working group (a subcommittee of the Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee) initiated a project back in 2021 to evaluate Exte's Com90 automated load securement system's suitability for eliminating load securement related injuries in BC log hauling operations. Read [the full report](#) on the outcomes of the study.

**Safety Byte Video Series** – BCFSC recently released two, short, 60 second videos relating to [Load Securement](#) [Safety for ORVs](#) and [Loading and Unloading ORV's Safely](#). Watch these, and many more safety videos on the BCFSC YouTube Channel.

### **BCFSC FIRS (Forest Industry Reporting System) App Dashboard**

– Access the FIRS Dashboard to 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.

Do you have an audit due this November? Use the FIRS App to manage forms and documents for safety-related paperwork related to SAFE Companies Audit submissions.

### **2025 Fall / Winter Training Calendar**

– BCFSC's in-person training calendar is fully loaded on the BCSFC website. If there's something you see that you might want delivered directly to your organization, we can help. [Contact the training department](#) to inquire about bringing courses directly to your preferred location at a convenient time that works for you.

### **Share Your Manufacturing Safety Innovations**

– Manufacturing Safety Innovations play a vital role in keeping workplaces safe—and sharing those ideas can make a real difference across the industry. BCFSC is looking to highlight manufacturing safety innovations through eblasts, social media, and the BCFSC website to inspire safer practices on the job.

If you've developed or come across a safety innovation that others could benefit from, we'd love to hear about it! **Submit your idea** by emailing Bill Laturnus at [blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org).

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**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
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert**  
– Click on the link to see the latest weekly alert

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

## 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. 🚧

## Court Case Highlights Dangers of Faulty Bear Bangers and Importance of Expiry Date Awareness

A recent ruling from the Supreme Court of British Columbia has highlighted the serious risks posed by defective or expired bear bangers—pyrotechnic devices commonly used to deter wildlife in remote work environments.

In the case, the incident occurred while a worker was working alone in a remote area north of Fort St. John, BC. After spotting a bear nearby, they attempted to use a bear banger to scare it off. Instead of launching into the air, the device detonated immediately, causing injuries to their hand, legs, vision and most significantly, permanent hearing damage. The device, branded **Star Blazer**, had been discontinued years earlier due to known defects, yet remained available for purchase due to a failed recall process.

### Why Equipment Checks Matter

Improper storage or use beyond their shelf life can lead to malfunction. This case is a reminder to:

- Check expiry dates if present and dispose of old bear bangers appropriately. Check with local waste management services on where to take them. Do not throw them away with regular garbage. .
- Train on the proper use of bear bangers and other bear deterrents. Consider what personal protective equipment (gloves, eye and ear protection) is needed when using bear bangers. Store bear bangers properly, away from moisture and extreme temperatures.



- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines and ensure products are sourced from reputable suppliers.

The case serves as a reminder that some safety equipment must be treated with the same diligence as any other hazardous materials. Let this incident be a call to action - regular inspections, proper storage and clear communication about recalls are essential to prevent incidents like these or others from occurring. 🚧



## This Fall - Stay Alert and Slow Down

Fall is coming bringing shorter days, wetter roads and the return of school speed zones, all of which contribute to increased hazards on the road. Whether you're heading to a job site or driving through town, it's a good time to adjust your habits behind the wheel.

### Slow Down in School Zones

Kids are back in school, and that means school zones are active again. In BC, speeding in a school zone doesn't just put lives at risk, it also comes with **double the fines** and for good reason. Children can be unpredictable when they cross roads and walk near traffic. Slowing down in school zones gives drivers more time to react and helps keep everyone safe.

### Be Ready for Slippery Roads and Low Visibility

Fall means rain, fog and reduced visibility on the road which makes driving more dangerous. Fog and rain make it harder to see pedestrians, especially children walking to school or waiting at bus stops.

Here are a few simple tips to stay safe:

- **Drive slower than usual** in poor weather, even if you're under the speed limit.
- **Leave extra space** between you and the vehicle ahead.
- **Use your headlights** to help others see you.
- **Stay alert** for kids near crosswalks and intersections. And don't forget to keep an eye out for wildlife too.

- **Check your vehicle** to ensure your tires are in good condition, your fluids are topped up and you have a good emergency kit and an effective check-in procedure that has been tried and tested.



### Safety Starts With You

Driving safely in fall isn't just about following the rules, it's about protecting lives. By staying aware of seasonal hazards and adjusting your driving habits, you help make the roads safer for everyone. 🚗

## Register for the Vancouver Island Safety Conference Coming Saturday, November 1, 2025

The 2025 Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC) is set for **Saturday, November 1** at the **Vancouver Island Conference Centre** in Nanaimo, BC.

This free, one-day event is a must attend to anyone working in BC's forest industry—from silviculture and harvesting to wood products manufacturing.

### This Year's Theme: *Facing the Future Together – The Human Side of Safety*

Join us for a powerful day of learning and collaboration as we explore the human factors that shape safety in the workplace. Through real stories and expert insights, we'll examine how leadership and personal accountability play a role in building safer, healthier work environments.

### Keynote Speakers:



- **Sylvia Marusyk** – Occupational Therapist and founder of MindBody Works Inc., Sylvia brings humour and energy to her talk on building healthy workplaces and lives.
- **Steve Howe** – A survivor of a life-changing workplace accident, Steve shares his journey and challenges us to reflect on our personal “why” for working safely.
- **Justin Brien** – Mental health advocate from Salmon Arm, BC, Justin shares his story of recovery and resilience in his keynote, Find Your Voice, Find Yourself.

### What to Expect:

- **Inspiring Presentations** – Hear from speakers who bring safety to life through personal experience and professional insight.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Connect with peers, leaders and innovators across the industry.
- **Practical Takeaways** – Learn about the latest safety practices and tools that you can apply in your workplace.
- **VISC Agenda** - Check out what's in store for the day.

Register today and be part of the conversation that's shaping the future of safety in BC forestry and help us move towards our shared goal where every forestry worker goes home safe—every day.

*The Vancouver Island Safety Conference is made possible thanks to the generous support of our industry sponsors.* 🙏

# BCFSC Safety Awards: Celebrating Safety Leadership

Each year, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) shines a spotlight on the people who go above and beyond to make forestry operations safer for everyone. The **BCFSC Leadership in Safety Awards** are more than just recognition—they're a celebration of the commitment, innovation and leadership that help shape a stronger safety culture across BC's Forest industry.

These awards honour individuals who lead by example, showing that safety isn't just a policy—it's a core value of the work they do. Whether it's through advocacy, innovation or setting a high standard of safety day in and day out, these award winners truly make a difference in the lives of their coworkers and companies.

## Nominate a Safety Leader Today

Nominations are open to anyone in forestry. BCFSC encourages peers, employers and workers to recognize those who are making a difference. Winners are announced each fall at the Vancouver Island Safety Conference.

## How to Nominate

Simply email us your nomination to [info@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:info@bcforestsafesafe.org) and include:

- 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)
- The reason for the nomination (please provide as much detail as possible)
- Your name and email address

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, September 23, 2025.



2024 Safety Award Winners

## Award Categories

- **Cary White Memorial Award:** This award recognizes an individual who has shown outstanding safety leadership. Someone who consistently goes above and beyond - offering a helping hand, sharing their experience and using their knowledge to support others in reaching their safety goals. This prestigious award is named in memory of Cary White, a passionate safety advocate who left a lasting legacy in the industry.
- **Forest Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award:** This award goes to someone who has shown exceptional commitment to safety in forestry harvesting operations, including silviculture, hand falling, mechanized harvesting, road building or log hauling. It could be a worker, supervisor, manager, safety committee member or company owner that has demonstrated strong leadership in making safety a core part of their daily work.
- **Manufacturing Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award:** This award recognizes an individual, team or company who show excellence in leadership, training, innovation and best practices in wood products manufacturing.

These awards remind us that safety is a shared responsibility—and that leadership can come from any level, in any role. By recognizing those who lead with integrity and care, we can continue to build a culture where safety is always front and centre. 🌲

# WorkSafeBC Updates:

## Online Injury Reporting Form

WorkSafeBC has recently improved their [online injury reporting form](#) to make it easier and more convenient to report your injury online. The improved form is designed for workers with a physical injury from a single incident at work (i.e., an injury that DID NOT develop gradually over a period of time).

The changes will give workers a convenient, 24/7 mobile-friendly online option to report their injury, in addition to existing options.

Teleclaim will continue to offer service for workers who prefer to connect with them by phone, and for specific circumstances where it's best to call WorkSafeBC.

To learn about the improvements and see a video about how to report an injury online, please visit: [Engagement Hub](#) 📺



## Understanding Your Right to a Safe Workplace From Day One

WorkSafeBC promotes workplace health and safety for all workers and employers in British Columbia. Even if you're from another country and just starting or working temporarily in BC, WorkSafeBC covers you with the same rights and responsibilities as other workers in BC, from day one.

Read more from WorkSafeBC on the awareness campaign aptly named [Start Safe, Stay Safe](#) that supports newcomers to BC in their understanding of their worker's right's to a safe workplace. 📺

## WorkSafeBC Announces the Average Base Premium Rate Will Remain Unchanged in 2026

WorkSafeBC has announced the preliminary average base premium rate for 2026 will remain at \$1.55 per \$100 of assessable payroll. Subject to final approval by WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors, this will be the ninth consecutive year that the average base rate has remained at this level. Visit [WorkSafeBC's website](#) for more information. 📺

## Policy Consultations and Public Hearings



### Proposed Changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

[Part 12, Tools, Machinery and Equipment, sections 12.74 to 12.80.2 — Automotive Lifts and Other Vehicle Supports](#)

**Feedback Submission Deadline**  
– Friday, September 5, 2025 by 4:30pm

[Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements — Combustible Dusts and Parts 8 and 31 — Standards Updates](#)

**Virtual Public Hearing - September 24, 2025** | [Click here](#) for details on how to view the public hearing online.

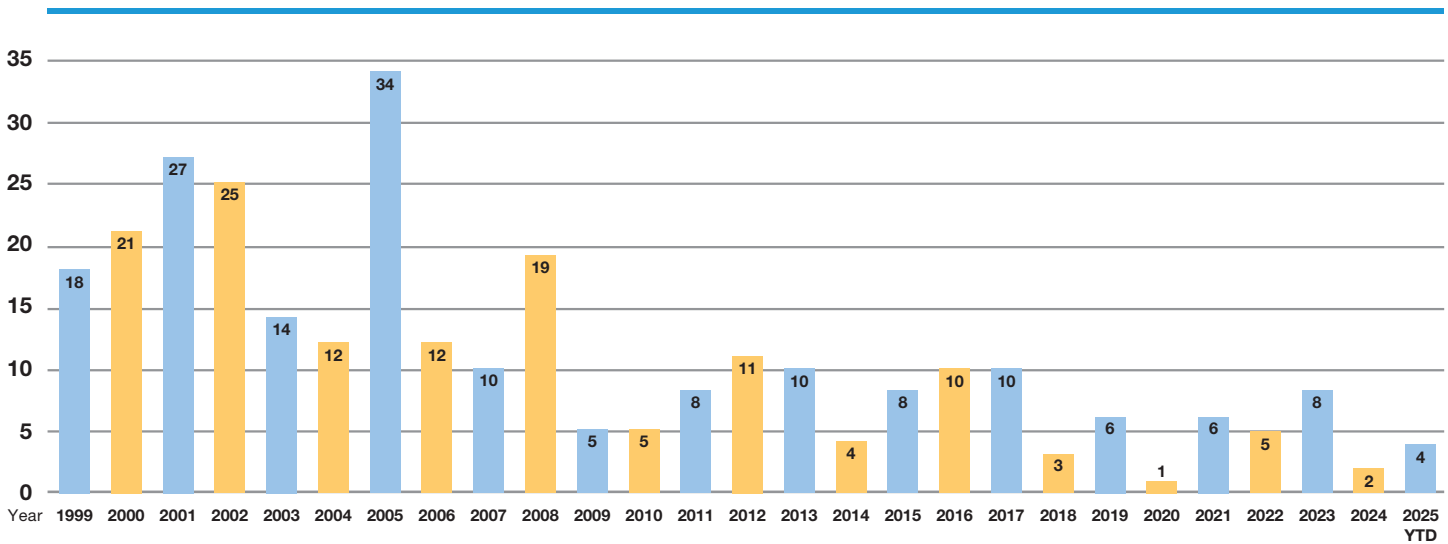
**Feedback Submission Deadline**  
– Friday, September 26, 2025 by 4:30pm. 📺



# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries



## WSBC Accepted Harvesting Work-related Death Claims



This information represents the number of harvesting work-related deaths by year in BC, up until September 2025.

Since our last publication, tragically three more work-related deaths have occurred in the BC forestry industry, bringing the total to six lives lost in 2025. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and our sympathies to all those affected by these tragic incidents.

## FATALITIES

**Injury:** Fatal

**Core Activity:** Cable or hi-lead logging

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** July 2025

In an area near Powell River, BC, a worker was standing on a deck of logs, speaking to a log loader operator, when four of the logs rolled, striking and pinning the worker to the track of the log loader. The worker sustained fatal injuries.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

**Injury:** Fatal

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** June 2025

On June 19th, a worker was fatally injured while topping a tree using rope access when they fell about 20 metres to the ground. The incident occurred in the Woods Lagoon area on the Central Coast.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

**Injury:** Fatal

**Core Activity:** Pulp and paper mill

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** June 2025

On June 4th, while unloading a chip scow (barge), an articulating front-end loader fell into the ocean and sunk to the bottom (about 16 feet). The operator was trapped inside the cab and drowned. The incident occurred at a pulp mill on Vancouver Island.

[Read the BCFSC Fatality Alert](#)

## Recent work-related incidents reported to WorkSafeBC

The following is the list of work-related incidents recently reported to WorkSafeBC. We share these in the hope they may help prevent similar incidents from occurring in your workplace.

## HARVESTING

**Injury:** Multiple Injuries

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking / Helicopter logging

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** July 2025

A worker was preparing to buck a log when another log, which had previously been assessed, rolled from above and struck them.

**Injury:** Injuries to head

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** June 2025

A worker was changing a bushing on a leaf spring of a service truck. The worker used a

chisel to keep the eyelet of the leaf spring open. The chisel ejected from the spring and struck the worker, breaking their safety glasses.

**Injury:** Fracture (1 worker)

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** May 2025

A worker assisting their falling partner, who was dealing with a 36-inch-diameter cedar tree. The first worker was about 20 feet back from the stump when they were struck by a 6-foot section of a slab that broke off from the cedar tree during the falling process.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Log processing / Integrated forest management

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** May 2025

A log processor was retrieving a log from the low side of the road when the operator heard a "pop." The operator looked out the back window and saw a fire on the deck and motor compartment of their machine. The operator was able to climb down from the machine and get help. Three water trucks were brought to the site, and crews extinguished the fire with water and foam.

**Injury:** Multiple injuries

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

A faller was falling a large old-growth hemlock tree. As the faller began retreating to a safe location, they were struck by a 10-foot-long dead top of a yellow cedar.

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# Work-Related Deaths & Injuries

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## MANUFACTURING

**Injury:** Injury to leg (1 worker)

**Core Activity:** Wooden component manufacture

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** June 2025

Two workers were working at a lumber assembly station. One worker was using a pneumatic nailing tool to piece together 2x10s, and the second worker was pulling additional 2x10s off an adjacent storage rack. The workers bumped into each other, causing the pneumatic nailing tool to be actuated and a nail to be discharged into the second worker's leg.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** June 2025

At the infeed to a cut-off saw, a telescoping log loader was handling several logs that were not feeding properly. The log loader became detached from its base and fell toward the infeed. No one was injured.

**Injury:** Close call

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

A worker was completing hot work adjacent to a system of conveyor belts between a sawmill and a cogeneration plant. A fire started in a conveyor transfer tower between two of the conveyor belts. On-site fire crews initiated fire suppression until the fire department arrived. There were no injuries.

**Injury:** Injuries to hand (1 worker)

**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

Two workers in an elevating work platform were conducting blow-down dust removal from the upper levels of the facility. While repositioning the basket, one of the workers moved it in the opposite direction intended, and the top rail of the basket contacted part of the structure. The second worker had their hand on the top rail and sustained injuries.

**Injury:** Injuries to hand

**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

A worker was operating a strapper machine when a piece of dunnage became jammed in the bottom dunnage magazine. The worker was injured as they tried to dislodge the jammed dunnage.

**Injury:** Fractures

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

A worker was standing on top of a load of lumber, using a piece of dunnage board as a pry to straighten skewed boards in an adjacent load. The worker fell.

**Injury:** Injuries to hand

**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

A worker was troubleshooting a noise coming from a veneer dryer stacker when one of their hands was caught between rollers.

**Injury:** Laceration, fractures

**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** March 2025

A worker was setting up to fix an upset condition in a lathe step feeder. They were using an overhead hoist lifting device outfitted with tongs at the infeed of the lathe step feeder. The tongs caught an edge and released, striking the worker.

**Injury:** Injuries to hand (1 worker)

**Core Activity:** Veneer or plywood manufacture

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** March 2025

Two workers completed repairs on a tongue-and-groove machine, then restarted the machine and watched to ensure it was running properly. When a jam occurred, one of the workers tried to push the plywood with their hand. Their hand became caught in the machinery.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Injury:** Contusions

**Core Activity:** Integrated forest management / Log hauling

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

The operator of a log transporter had just completed the self-loading of a log transporter on a 15% road grade. As the worker raised the transporter stabilizers from the controls on top of the log transporter, it started to roll down the road. The worker climbed partly down the ladder and jumped about 3 metres to the ground. The loaded log transporter travelled about 50 metres down the road, entered a ditch, and rolled another 25 metres before coming to a stop.

**Injury:** Minor injuries

**Core Activity:** Dump truck operation / Electric utilities

**Location:** Northern BC

**Date of Incident:** April 2025

While dumping a load of wood chips, a truck and trailer combination (B-train configuration) rolled onto its side. The operator was standing on the rear deck of the truck and was thrown to the ground.

## FORESTRY SERVICES

**Injury:** Multiple injuries (1 worker)

**Core Activity:** Wildfire suppression

**Location:** Interior BC

**Date of Incident:** June 2025

A group of workers were conducting basic chainsaw training at a field site when a suspected dangerous tree (65cm in diameter, 27m tall), previously assessed as a safe tree for the work activity, unexpectedly fell. The tree struck a young worker about 30ft from the tree's base. 🌲





## 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](mailto: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.

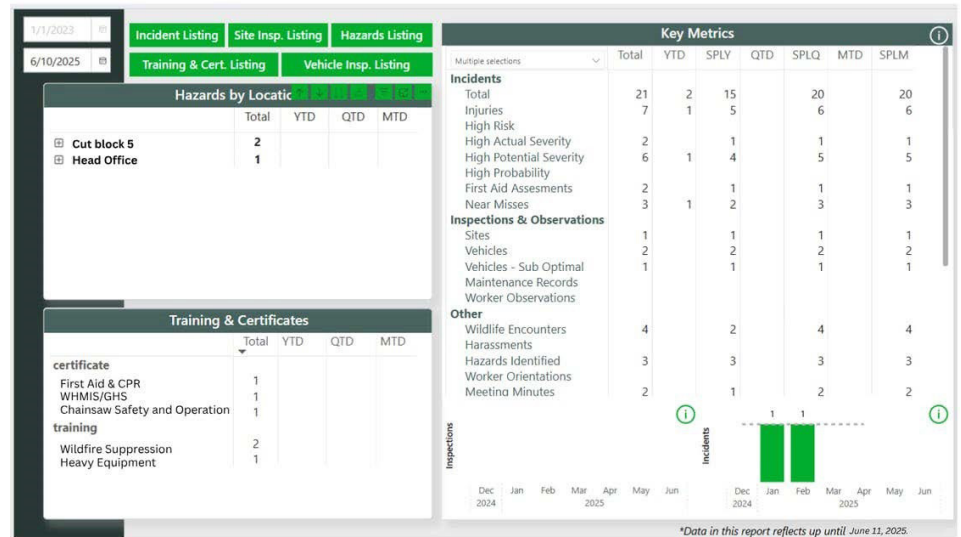
The more reports your company records using FIRS, the more robust and insightful your dashboard becomes. Whether you're tracking incidents, inspections, maintenance records or training and certifications, the dashboard helps you:

- 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](http://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](mailto: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](#). 📱



## FTAC Meeting Updates

### How WorkSafeBC Responds to a Faller Fatality

At the June meeting of the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC), WorkSafeBC's Occupational Safety Officers Chris Miller and Kevin Legros shared how the agency responds when a tree faller is fatally injured on the job.

When a fatal incident is reported, WorkSafeBC immediately dispatches a Prevention Field Services (PFS) officer and members of its Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Investigations team. In most cases, a local PFS officer is first on site, while OHS Investigations officers may need to travel from elsewhere in the province.

#### Initial response

Before WorkSafeBC officers can begin their work, the scene must be released by the RCMP and the BC Coroners Service. Once that happens, the PFS officer secures the scene and begins a compliance inspection to identify any immediate hazards. A stop-work order is typically placed on all falling activities and remains in effect until all serious safety concerns have been addressed by the employer(s).

Early in the inspection, PFS officers will identify all parties involved, such as the licensee, prime contractor, subcontractors, supervisors, and workers, and clarify their roles leading up to the incident. The officer focuses on:

- How the faller came to be in the situation that led to the fatality
- Whether a compliant safety plan was in place and followed
- Any gaps in supervision or execution of the work

Officers will usually interview individuals from the different parties involved, review site-specific documentation, and assess the immediate work area for potential patterns or issues in the work processes.

The employer(s) will also be reminded of their responsibility to conduct a

preliminary and final investigation of the incident. Before any work can resume, the PFS officer will confirm that all necessary corrective actions have been implemented and are in compliance.

Both PFS and OHS Investigations officers also coordinate with other agencies on-site and offer support to affected workers, including access to WorkSafeBC's Critical Incident Response Program. This free, confidential service connects workers and employers with trained mental health professionals located in their community.

#### WorkSafeBC Investigations

In parallel, OHS Investigations officers conduct an in-depth investigation of the incident with the purpose of identifying and understanding the occupational health and safety factors that contributed to the incident, so that similar incidents can be prevented in the future. The amount of time an investigation takes is directly related to its complexity.

When the investigation is complete, the investigating officers prepare an Incident Investigation Report. The investigation report may include enforcement action taken under the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation in response to the incident and as a result of the investigation. Regulatory compliance activities may be summarized in the report.

Miller and Legros emphasized that strong, hands-on supervision plays a vital role in preventing serious incidents, especially in high-risk activities like manual tree falling.

For more information about incident investigations and the importance of effective supervision in forestry operations, visit [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com).

#### Social Media

Social media provides connections and allows us to access and share information. More and more, fallers are posting videos of themselves falling trees. More and more of those videos show fallers using extremely dangerous

practices and, in some cases, committing high risk violations. Unfortunately, they are not posting videos to raise safety concerns and awareness; it is more for likes!

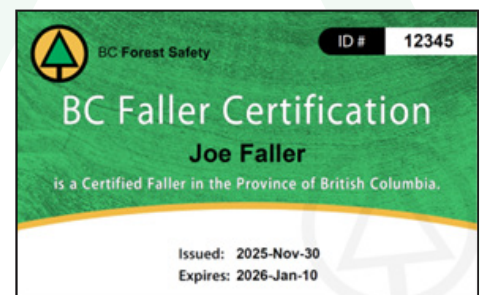
Landowners, licensees, contractors and WorkSafeBC take these posts seriously. In some instances, the licensee has banned fallers from working on the land. WorkSafeBC is starting to take note of these posts/videos and when a faller is identified, they are not only reaching out to the faller, but also to the licensee and the contractor to identify the dangerous work practices.

There is an article on Social Media Safety for Forestry Operations in the Training Section of this newsletter. The article provides some great information on building a social media policy for your company, training to understand what is appropriate to post online and considerations for using social media at the worksite.

If you have any concerns with a falling-related social media post that you have recently viewed, please feel free to share it with us at [faller@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafesafe.org). 🌲

## Faller Certification Card Renewals

In November, the BCFSC will begin to mail out three-year faller cards to those with cards expiring in January 2026. Throughout the year, we will continue to mail out cards to all those with a 2026 expiry date.



If you do not receive your card or have not received it in the past, require a replacement card, or require an address update, contact the Falling Department at [faller@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafesafe.org) or 1-877-741-1060. 🌲



# Danger Tree Blasting Committee

Danger tree blasting allows fallers to work safely and effectively with explosives to remove trees that are too dangerous to fall by conventional methods. Currently, danger tree blasting activities are in decline within the province. Given this, Industry members established the Danger Tree Blasting Committee in 2021 to look at initiatives that would result in danger tree blasting being an easy to access, efficient, and effective tool to reduce the risk to both hand fallers and other forestry workers working on Coastal operations. Most recently, the committee's focus has been on the changes to Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN) regulation with regards to Type 6 magazines and storage requirements as well as barriers to certification and recertification.

Type 6 magazines, also called a bin, box, or day-box, is a steel magazine used for storage of smaller amounts of explosives. These magazines will not be permitted after July 31, 2026, except for law enforcement agencies, for perforating sites where they are located inside a gun loading facility, or for in-process storage of explosives. Type 9 magazines have been identified as the most cost effective to replace the Type 6 magazines, however the regulatory requirements around storage of the explosives are still somewhat cost prohibitive.

WorkSafeBC released the updated [British Columbia Blasters' Handbook](#) in March 2023. The handbook was



Type 6 Magazine

developed as a study guide for those who wish to be examined for blasting certification. The certification and recertification (renewal) requirements for blasters can be found in the [WorkSafeBC Blasting Exam Package](#). Some of the high-level requirements are provided below but can be found in more detail in the package.

To qualify for the blasting examination, the following prerequisites are required:

- At least 6 months' experience in blasting operations
- Worked as an assistant to a blaster that has held a certificate for a minimum of two years and has not had a suspension within the last two years
- Character, knowledge, qualifications, and experience make the candidate competent to handle explosives (the package provides significant detail of what should be included in a letter of experience)



Type 9 Magazine

- Taken a minimum of 8 hours of training relating to the safe handling of explosives

For **initial certification**, 2 blast logs per month for a total of 12 logs are required. Initial or new blasting certifications are issued for a period of two years.

For **renewals**, 2 blast logs per year up to 10 blasts are required. Renewal blasting certifications are issued for a period of up to five years.

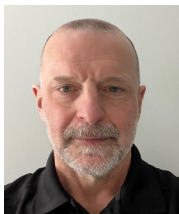
There are currently less than 10 certified danger tree blasters in BC. The committee has discussed the possible reasons for the decline in certifications and determined that it may be due to the regulatory requirements around explosives storage and/or the certification and renewal requirement established by WorkSafeBC. The committee will continue to work on resolutions to these issues with the hopes of truly making danger tree blasting an easy to access, efficient, and effective tool for the forest industry. 🌲

It is with great sadness that FTAC announces the passing of one of its members, Richard Butler. Richard passed away on July 27, 2025. He was a long-time FTAC member, starting with the committee in 2009. His contributions at FTAC and in industry over the years have made a lasting impact, including his advocacy of new faller training, faller certification and falling supervisor certification. He will truly be missed.

At Richard's request, there will be no service. A private family celebration of life is planned.

We extend our deepest condolences to Richard's family and friends during this difficult time. 🌲





## Emergency Response Planning – Air Transportation Planning and Practice Drill's

By Dorian Dereshkevich, Manager, Transportation and Northern Safety

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) recently released the third installment in a video series focusing on Emergency Response Planning (ERP) requirements specific to the forest sector. This two-part release highlights planning requirements and demonstrates practice drill scenarios when air transportation (helicopter) is the principle means of transporting an injured worker as part of a workplace ERP.

The ERP video series was initiated in part to increase awareness of the recent changes to Part 3 of WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation that came into effective November 1, 2024. WorkSafeBC states that the primary purpose of the changes was to "strengthen the current requirements in Schedule 3-A, with a focus on high-risk remote industries". The amendments introduced new workplace characteristics that must be considered when completing a first aid assessment. These characteristics are key to determining the workplace class, which subsequently aids in the establishment of minimum levels of first aid supplies, facilities, attendants and emergency transportation.

Many forestry workplaces are high-risk, remote and less accessible and consequently air transportation will often be the primary, or only, method for transporting an injured worker in a critical emergency situation. Section 3.171 of the OHS regulations detail the requirements that must be met when air transportation is utilized. Some key considerations are:

- a) before the start of work activities, arrangements must be made with an air service to ensure that:
  - i. an appropriate aircraft is reasonably available during operations, and
  - ii. there is at least one stretcher in the aircraft, or at the workplace, that is compatible with the aircraft.
- c) the employer must determine the availability of appropriate aircraft before the start of each workday, and
- d) the air service provider must notify the employer if an appropriate aircraft ceases to be available.

The new videos emphasize important items that need to be considered to successfully execute an air rescue. To produce the videos, BCFSC partnered with TEAAM (Technical Evacuation Advanced Aero Medical) Aeromedical which specializes in Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS). When TEAAM responds to a call they request eight critical pieces of information to ensure a quick response time and successful mission.

1. Location of patient – in standing timber, on landing etc.
2. GPS coordinates for worksite.
3. Geography of location – steep, rocky etc.
4. Mechanism of injury or illness.
5. Weight of patient.
6. Any known hazards – other aircraft or drones working in the area etc.
7. Industrial operations – blasting, overhead yarding (cables) etc.
8. Markings used to identify the site – flagging, or landing site etc.



Incorporating critical items like these will aid in the development of an effective ERP. Practice drills reinforce roles and responsibilities for crew members, identify weaknesses in the plan, and allow for implementation of improvements. Remember; relying on 911 is not an effective rescue plan. You need to be prepared for all scenarios and always have a backup plan. What will you do if you can't fly your worker out?

The two new videos can be found on the BCFSC YouTube channel, and we encourage you to watch both parts and share them amongst your industry peers.

[ERP – Air Medivac Procedures Part 1: Planning Requirements](#)

[ERP – Air Medivac Procedures Part 2: Practice Drills](#)

For more information regarding this initiative, please contact the BC Forest Safety Council Transportation Department at [transport.admin@bcforestsafec.org](mailto:transport.admin@bcforestsafec.org) or 250-562-3215.

### Additional Resource Links:

[Regulatory-changes-background-occupational-first-aid-pdf-en \(1\).pdf](#)

[WorkSafeBC-OHS\\_Regulation-Part-03-Section:3.17](#)

[WorkSafeBC-Bulletin-Air\\_Evac.-In-Forestry-Operations-2017](#)

[Emergency Response Planning: 12 Tips for an Effective Emergency Response Plan | WorkSafeBC](#)

[First aid requirements - WorkSafeBC](#)

[First aid assessment | WorkSafeBC](#)

[New videos: Workplace first aid requirements | WorkSafeBC](#)

# Trinder Automated Log Load Securement

The motion of throwing and securing log load wrappers can cause considerable stress on drivers' shoulders and overexertion-related musculoskeletal injuries are quite common among log truck operators. Automated load securement is one of the ways to reduce stress on the drivers' body during the load securement process. There are several systems developed in other parts of the world, but some of these have not been fully tested or been utilized within the Canadian forest sector. Of these systems, Trinder Engineers automated log load securement system is of particular interest to BC log hauling operations, due to its current use within New Zealand's log hauling sector and lower cost compared to other existing automated systems.

Trinder Engineers, a New Zealand general engineering company who manufacture heavy vehicle trailers, has developed the WASP automated load securement system for the New Zealand market that is retrofittable to existing bunks. The WASP consists of three elements:

- Wrapper thrower - An automated device with a custom stake is fitted to each bolster for throwing the wrapper over the load. The thrower consists of a pneumatic actuator, 1.8 m arm and hook.
- Auto tensioner - An auto-tension device which engages with the wrapper to secure the load, maintain constant tension, reduces load slippage, and the time to secure the load.
- Load monitoring - A load management sensor which measures the tension in the wrappers and confirms the load is secure and alerts the driver to any faults, both initially and in transit.

In order to evaluate the system within BC log hauling operations a pilot was initiated in the spring of 2025. The pilot will evaluate the existing solid stake system as well as a redesigned retrofittable system for folding stakes. The redesigned system is critical as many truck and trailer configurations in BC use folding stakes to be within legal height when piggy backing the trailer. The project is being conducted in two stages with stage 1 focussed on the existing wrapper thrower which is expected to be completed by late summer 2025. Stage two will proceed in the fall of 2025 and include the folding stake wrapper thrower, auto tensioning system and load monitoring system. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in the spring of 2026 with the project report being released shortly thereafter.

If you are interested in more information please contact BCFSC Transportation Safety at [transport.admin@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:transport.admin@bcforestsafe.org) or call 250-562-3215. 🌲



Figure 1. Trinder wrapper thrower (1.8 m arm with hook at the end)





# Post Wildfire Operational Safety

As we head into fall, many areas in British Columbia are still feeling the effects of previous years' wildfires. These fires have changed the landscape and created new hazards and safety risks to many forests in British Columbia. These new hazards affect all phases of forestry from planning to post harvesting. Some of these hazards include unstable trees and ground, poor air quality, increased blowdown and lingering hot spots.

The Woodlot License & Community Forest Agreement Safety Committee has developed the following list of considerations when operating in wildfire-affected areas. ⚠️



Phase	Additional Considerations
Planning Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards</li> <li>• Guide the development of harvest plans (and tree retention potential), consider undertaking a field review to assess general tree stability</li> <li>• Keep up to date on potential new restrictions, regulatory changes</li> <li>• Give extra consideration to slope stability, assess steep slopes that may have been compromised/unstable ground</li> <li>• Use extra caution during bid tours and all assessments as hazards are unknown</li> <li>• Consider clear cuts vs partial cuts to decrease the chance of reoccurring fires and/or blowdown</li> <li>• Determine potential access issues due to damaged roads/bridges/culverts</li> <li>• Determine the scale and intensity of the fire and if its fully out</li> <li>• Identify a refuge area for field crews to address risk during wind events</li> <li>• Consider widening road right of ways to remove trees that will be hazardous during operation</li> </ul>
Development Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards</li> <li>• Conduct a recce to determine if plans are viable &amp; identify hazards</li> <li>• Use extra caution during general hazard assessment/ overall site assessment as hazards are unknown i.e. ground stability</li> <li>• Determine appropriate natural drainage as organics and infrastructure (i.e. culverts) may have been destroyed/damaged during the fires</li> </ul>
Harvesting Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards</li> <li>• Remove danger trees concurrent with harvesting. Trees planned for retention must meet Wildlife/Danger Tree Assessment Protocol</li> <li>• Consider development of an air quality protocol to address ash and debris as well as hot spots still producing smoke</li> <li>• Limit hand falling as unstable trees and ground could affect safety</li> <li>• Assess ground stability due to compromised root bed and soils</li> <li>• Machine operators should use extra due diligence when navigating around trees due to potential instability</li> </ul>
Post Harvesting Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop wind protocol to address blowdown hazards</li> <li>• Consider development of an air quality protocol to address ash and debris as well as hot spots still producing smoke</li> <li>• Subsequent operations such as site prep, planting, brushing and spacing should be preceded by the removal of any dangerous trees. Trees planned for retention must meet Wildlife/Danger Tree Assessment Protocol</li> </ul>





Reprint CANADIAN BIOMASS MAGAZINE Article, Published July 14, 2025

*Canadian Biomass Magazine*, featured the following article on the insights from the recent combustible dust specialist training held in June in Prince George.



## Insights from the Combustible Dust Specialist Training Session

By Tammy Carruthers, BCFSC SAFE Companies, MAG and WPAC Administrator

Reflections from the June 3 to 5, 2025 BCFSC CD Specialist Training session in Prince George

The Combustible Dust Training Institute workshop in Prince George, B.C. was an enlightening experience for the attendees, who are involved in housekeeping and maintenance, engineering controls, and safety management at their work locations. The training session underscored the importance of practical applications and strategic initiatives for controlling combustible dust hazards in the workplace. The training included two days of classroom training and a practical application of learnings at the Lakeland sawmill, part of Sinclair Forest Products.

### Housekeeping and maintenance

The training highlighted the critical role of housekeeping programs in managing dust accumulations and preventing hazardous conditions. Regular cleaning routines, both scheduled and unscheduled, must address all surfaces where dust can accumulate, including overhead beams, joists, ducts, and equipment tops. The reference to the [NFPA 499 guidelines](#) and the NFPA 660 standard provided clarity on effective housekeeping frequencies across various industries for both area electrical classification and fire and deflagration hazards.

### Engineering controls

Engineering controls emerged as vital components in protecting against combustible dust hazards. The importance of building design compliance with fire prevention codes and limiting accumulation locations was emphasized. Equipment design should include dust containment and explosion protection systems, while ignition source control—encompassing temperature management, mechanical hazards, electrical hazards, and electrostatic discharges—was noted as fundamental for incident prevention.

### Case studies

The session included compelling case studies on dust explosions, such as the plywood plant explosion in Corrigan, Texas. These real-world examples illustrated the potential pitfalls in management, prevention, and protection systems. The discussions provided valuable lessons on the necessity for emergency response processes, spark detection, suppression systems, and safe exclusion zones.

### Conclusion

The workshop offered a comprehensive overview of practical applications and strategies for managing combustible dust hazards. Key takeaways included understanding building space

evaluations, conducting Dust Hazard Analyses (DHAs), and the implementation of robust management systems and engineering controls. Continuous learning and adaptation were emphasized to ensure the safety of workers, facilities, and the environment.

The attendees expressed their gratitude to the expert instructors, Michelle Murphy, M.S., CCPSC Process Safety Expert and Lead Program Instructor from Mica, and Chris Cloney, Ph.D., P.Eng., Managing Director and Lead Researcher at Dust Safety Science, for their invaluable insights and contributions to the field of combustible dust safety.

The training session was not just an educational experience but a call-to-action for all participants to enhance their safety practices and protect their workplaces from combustible dust hazards.

Thanks to the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) for organizing the event and subsidizing 50 per cent of the cost for sawmill industry participants.

If you are interested in exploring additional training options, please email [chris@dustsafetyscience.com](mailto:chris@dustsafetyscience.com). 🌱

## WorkSafeBC Virtual Public Hearing - September 24, 2025

WorkSafeBC is holding a virtual public hearing on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.


The virtual public hearing will be livestreamed on **September 24, 2025**, in two sessions. The first will take place from **11am to 1pm** and the second from **3pm to 5pm**.

Details on how to view or participate in the virtual public hearing will be posted on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) and communicated by enews closer to the hearing date.

The proposed amendments can be accessed, along with explanatory notes, using the links below:

- [Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements — Combustible Dusts](#)
- [Parts 8 and 31, Standards Updates \(PPE Safety Headgear\)](#)


Public hearings provide stakeholders an opportunity to comment on proposed regulatory amendments. WorkSafeBC welcomes feedback on these amendments either by written submission or by participation in the virtual public hearing. Written submissions will be accepted until **4:30pm on Friday, September 26, 2025**.

Add [this link](#) to your favourites and see the full list of [Current Public Hearings and Consultations from WorkSafeBC](#) updated regularly on the WorkSafeBC website. 

## MAG Safety Innovation Call

MAG recognizes the vital importance of safety innovations in industry. Sharing these advancements is essential for creating a safe workplace.

BCFSC wants to [share manufacturing safety innovations](#) through industry eblasts, social media and on BCFSC's website to encourage safety at work.

Submit your safety innovation idea today by emailing Bill Laturnus at [blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org). 

## MAG's New Appointed Chair for 2026-2029

In wood products manufacturing, the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) plays a key role in supporting continuous improvement in safety performance in sawmills across BC. MAG is dedicated to striving for workplaces that are free from injuries, incidents and near misses.

As we approach the end of 2025, MAG will see a leadership transition. Scott Wynn, who has served as Chair from 2022 to 2025, will be stepping down, and Grant Fast will assume the role beginning in 2026.

### Outgoing MAG Chair: Scott Wynn (2022-2025)

Scott has skillfully led the committee's efforts over the past three years. Under his leadership, MAG has focused on several key initiatives, including:

- Development of leadership training
- Enhancing hazard identification practices
- Realigning quarterly safety statistics definitions
- Advancing HSA foundational activities (e.g., combustible dust)
- Expanding the MAG Share/Build Resources program

*Serving as Chairperson of the  
Manufacturing Advisory Group*

*(MAG) for the past three years has been a privilege and professional highlight. Together, we strategically reintroduced in-person collaboration and best practice sharing through on-site meetings and launched pre-meeting professional development sessions that have enriched our collective expertise. What stands out most to me is our shared commitment to strengthening frontline supervisor training, providing a solid foundation for safe and effective leadership. Our collective efforts have made a lasting impact, and I believe the team takes pride in what we've achieved. I have no doubt that Grant Fast's leadership will inject new energy and vision, propelling the team to even greater success. I look forward to seeing MAG continue to thrive under his leadership.*

**— Scott Wynn, Outgoing MAG Chairperson, Safety Specialist BC Operations – Tolko Industries.**

*"We would like to extend our appreciation for Scott's leadership as Chair and his efforts in fostering a culture of continuous improvement in safety performance in the sawmill industry. MAG continues to drive impactful changes, mirroring our commitment and goal that 'Every Worker Goes Home Safe Every Day.'"*

**— Rob Moonen, BCFSC CEO**

### Incoming MAG Chair: Grant

*Continued on page 19...*

Continued from page 18...

## Fast (2026–2029)

Business Improvement Manager,  
Sinclar Group Forest Products Ltd.

We are pleased to welcome Grant Fast as the incoming Chair of MAG. We look forward to his leadership and continued collaboration in advancing safety performance across the industry.

Grant brings over two decades of experience in forestry operations, information technology and continuous improvement to his new role as MAG's new Chair.

Originally from Abbotsford, BC, Grant relocated to Prince George in 1996 with his wife to begin a new chapter, transitioning from municipal government to the forestry sector by joining the IT department at Northwood Pulp & Timber (Canfor). In 2011, he joined Sinclar and has since held a range of leadership roles spanning Technology, Plant Management, Strategic Risk, Process Improvement and Corporate Safety.

Grant's passion for safety began early, growing up on farms and in high-risk environments where safety was often overlooked. Personal experiences with workplace accidents affecting friends and family made safety a lifelong priority. Entering the forest industry, he was impressed by the sector's commitment to health and safety and joined a Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee early in his career.

His leadership journey took a pivotal turn during his time as Plant Manager at a Sinclar site, where he saw firsthand how safety thrives when every employee is engaged. This experience led to his current role as Corporate Safety Program Leader, where he provides structure and consistency across Sinclar's safety initiatives.

As Business Improvement Manager, Grant continues to lead strategic initiatives focused on operational excellence, safety performance, and



data-driven decision-making.

Now, as Chair of the MAG Group, Grant is eager to give back, through learning, mentorship and collaboration. He values the peer-to-peer connections and the exchange of ideas that strengthen safety culture across the industry.

His key priorities for MAG include:

- Enhancing the Wood Manufacturing Supervisor Training Program to emphasize communication, accountability, and continuous improvement—making it accessible to all levels of leadership.
- Analyzing Serious Incident and Fatal Potential (SIFp) data to develop proactive strategies, refine incident categorization, and link job roles to injury types for targeted interventions.
- Continuing MAG's focus on psychological safety and employee wellbeing—fostering a culture of trust where employees feel empowered to speak up.

Grant holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Athabasca University and a Computer Information Systems Diploma from the University of the Fraser Valley. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and exploring BC's lakes and mountains. 🌲

## Consider our Safety Resources for Your Digital Displays

Does your workplace use digital screens to share company information and safety messages with employees?

If so, BCFSC offers ready-to-use slide graphics that accompany the weekly Crew Talk and Manufacturing Safety Alerts. Simply click on the link in our BCFSC crew talk or manufacturing safety alert emails to download the 16x9 graphic slide and add it to your digital display and help reinforce our key safety messages.



You can also find the slides on [MAG webpage](#) under the **Crew Talks** and **MAG Safety Alerts**.

And if you haven't done so already, subscribe to receive our weekly Manufacturing Safety Alert and Crew Talks sent directly to your inbox and stay informed on key safety topics that could help keep your workers safe.

[Subscribe to Weekly BCFSC Crew Talks and Manufacturing Safety Alerts](#)

We're always on the lookout for new ideas! If you have a topic suggestion for a Crew Talk or a Safety Alert to share, please reach out to **Bill Laturnus** at [Bill.Laturnus@bcforestsafte.org](mailto:Bill.Laturnus@bcforestsafte.org). 🌲





## 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. 🌲



## From Thoughts to Reality, Making Change Happen

By Dr. Delia Roberts

We all have habits or behaviors that we would like to change, and we've all thought about making the change happen. But long-term, successful change is really hard. The Fit to Work programs have been promoting healthy behaviors in the forest industry (and others) for over 20 years. This article will give you a look at what scientists who study behavioral change think about how to make change happen, along with what we've seen actually work in the forest industry in BC.

### Our behaviors affect our health, and good health makes every aspect of your life better

There has been a lot of research done on the topic of improving health behaviors. This work is largely driven by the health consequences of sedentary behavior and diets that are based on highly processed foods. We know that these behaviors lead to diseases like obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart attacks and strokes. And along with smoking and alcohol consumption, a lack of physical activity significantly increases the risk of cancer and death from all diseases.

We also know that lack of sleep and stress can make many of these health concerns worse. The effects of these behaviors on health and wellness are so strong and so widely presented that we are all aware that engaging in behaviors like regular physical activity, managing stress and fatigue, eating a healthy diet and avoiding smoking, alcohol and recreational drugs creates the best chance for good health - and that because we will feel better physically and mentally, our lives will be better. We will perform better at work, our relationships with our partners, children, friends and ourselves will be better. We will have more energy and be able to do more things, whether that's doing our jobs well, getting our chores done at home, raising our children or keeping up with our friends at hobbies and sports.

All of these effects of improved health also relate to safety. The better we feel, the easier it is to stay alert, be observant make good decisions, and react quickly to unexpected events. For example, in our Fit to Work studies we observed that eating less sugar during the workday helped to stabilize blood sugar and improved mood,

decision making and reaction time. Together these things significantly lowered the risk of incident or injury.

Most scientists who study how people effectively change their behaviors are psychologists. They have categorized the steps that people

go through when they try to stop smoking or other addictive behaviors, including overeating or spending a lot of time on devices. The same stages apply to adding new behaviors like increasing physical activity or eating a more nutritious diet.

### The stages of behavioral change

Stage One is called Pre-contemplation. People who are in this stage might know that one or more of their behaviors are not healthy, but they deny that they need to change. When they think about making a change they focus on how hard it will be and barriers like not having enough time or money. These difficulties are real and will have to be overcome if change is going to take place, so identifying them is actually helpful.

Stage Two is called Contemplative. In this phase people have an awareness of how the behavior is causing unwanted effects. This is the information gathering phase, and it can be initiated by a workplace wellness program, a visit to your health care provider or even a conversation with a friend or family member. It can be tied to a licensing medical, or perhaps to not being able to do an activity that one used to really enjoy. Whatever it is that makes the connection between behavior and outcome real for the individual, in this phase people know that they aren't happy with the way things are. However, they may still not really believe that changing their behavior will make a difference in their lives.

Stage Three is the Preparation phase. The need for change becomes more important to the individual and although the scientists don't highlight this phase, our observations show that it's critical. Something happens in this phase that switches the person's perspective away from why they can't make the change, towards living the

*Continued on page 26...*





life that they want to live. The goal of a healthy lifestyle moves from a theoretical situation to a reality. This switch includes having faith that one can control one's behavior, and because of this, influence the future.

## Making change happen isn't just about willpower

One clue as to what happens in this phase can be found in some newer research which is moving away from looking at the stages of behavioral change as purely thought-driven (as in making a conscious decision to change behavior or what we call willpower) and instead considering that many health behaviors have a significant emotional or reactive component. This might explain why we execute so many behaviors impulsively, or in response to emotional triggers. It's often a significant event like knowing someone who dies of a heart attack, the birth of a child, or a friend or colleague's workplace accident/injury, that causes enough of a shift in a person's frame of reference that they become ready to make change happen. Another thing that might help with believing that change is possible is when someone else at work with the same lifestyle as us makes the change that we have been trying for. This happens all the time in sport where once a seemingly impossible time barrier has been broken, suddenly there are many who can achieve that level.

The fourth phase is the Action phase. In this phase the behavior is changed. Whether consciously or not, a commitment is made to the change process and the belief is that the outcome is not only desirable but that it is within reach. The motivation for this phase can be internal (self-driven) or external (community or environmentally) driven.

Most health promotion (and safety) programs use external motivators, like educational resources, regular check-ins with a coach or health professional, smartphone apps, wearable devices,

paper charting to keep track of progress and cue behaviors, workplace signage, discussions and activities, and even monetary rewards. Another external motivator might be committing to a partner to work out together (which makes it harder to skip a session), with the added bonus of enjoying the social aspect of the activity or getting better at the sport. A little friendly competition can be very fun and motivating! Making something more-or-less accessible is also very effective. If there is no junk food in the house, it's harder to eat it!

The research about this phase indicates that the fact that change is taking place becomes rewarding in itself so that the motivation becomes more internally driven. Researchers believe that this is one of the important parts of creating the motivation to make change.

In our experience the only way that change actually happens is when it is internally driven. There are thousands of good health and wellness, fitness and addiction treatment programs out there. But they don't do any good until a person decides to use them. We have seen this happen in every industry that the Fit to Work programs have addressed. The most important piece seems to be that the individual finds their own reason to make the change, and they see how it is possible within their culture. In many cases the key motivation as we have observed is wanting to be successful at a job. Perhaps this is because work takes up so many hours of our lives, and our personal identity is often tied up in the job that we do. We also feel that it is essential to deliver the educational component, and coaching supports within the culture and constraints of specific jobs. This makes the change process much more realistic than with generic programs. When a program has been validated within a specific region it brings change within reach because we know the programs are effective. Outcomes were measured

and the program optimized with people just like you, doing the same kinds of jobs in the same places as you do.

The fifth and last phase is Maintenance, for once the behavior has changed it still requires effort to stick with the new pattern. Researchers believe that it takes anywhere from six months to five years for the new behavior to become permanent. One factor that has been identified as important for this phase is to become aware of the triggers that lead to old behaviors, and to develop alternate coping mechanisms for the emotions that arise. Often people cycle between the Action and Maintenance phases, but we can use these relapses as opportunities to learn more about our triggers and how to deal with them in positive ways. Another important shift in perspective for long lasting change is to see oneself as the person who lives the new behavior. When we identify with being the skilled and effective employee, the engaged partner, the parent with energy to play with our children, the successful athlete, it becomes easier to maintain the behaviors that allow these things to happen.

Change is not easy but understanding more about how it happens can help us figure out where we want to be, and how to get there. It can help us identify what we can do ourselves and where we need help, how to find that help and how to use it. What is not in doubt is that improving your health will significantly improve your life and the lives of the people that you care about. You won't ever regret taking care of yourself.

## Resources:

[BCFSC Health Awareness Series](#)

[Fit to Plant](#)

[Fit to Work](#) 

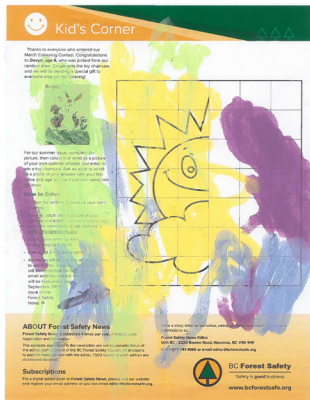




# Kid's Corner



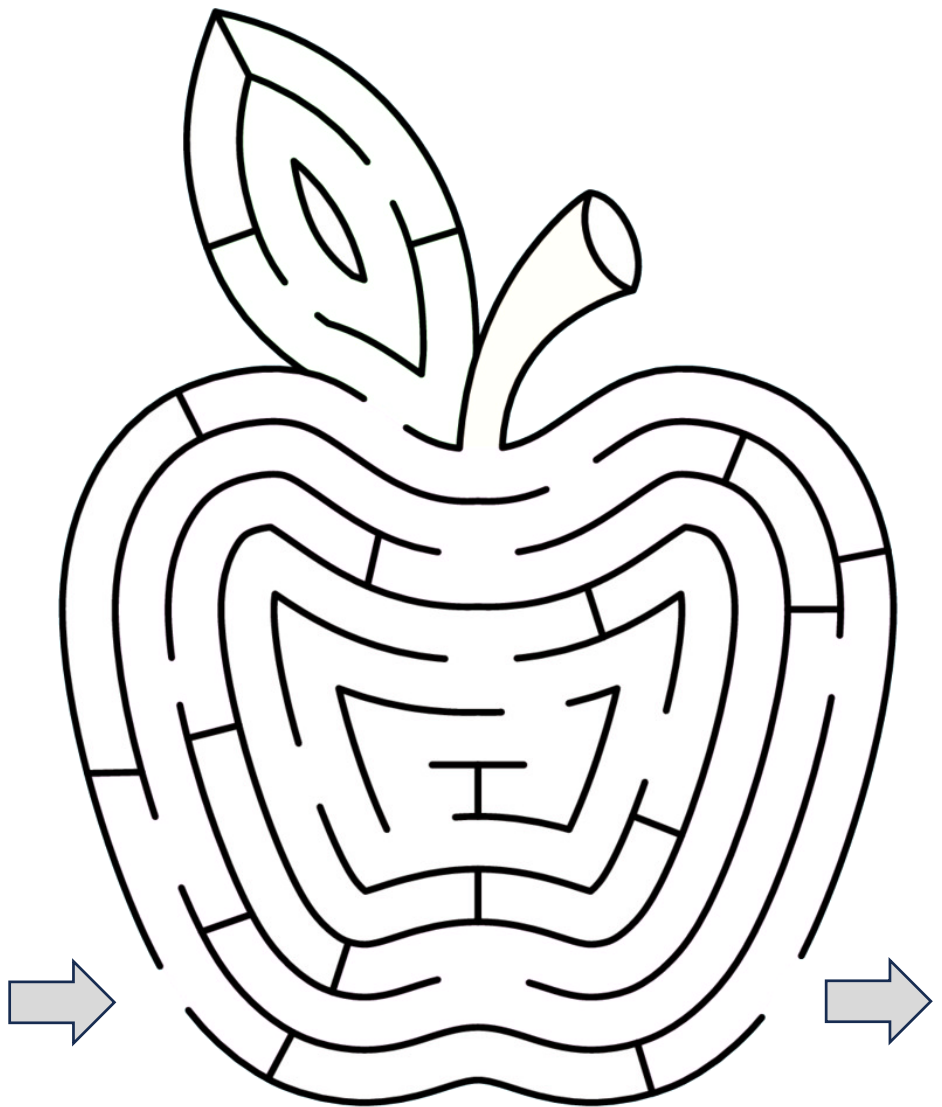
Thanks to everyone who entered our June Colouring Contest. Congratulations to **Sabine, age 3**, who was picked from our random draw. Sabine wins the toy chainsaw, and we will be sending a special gift to everyone else just for entering!



For our fall issue, complete the apple maze, then colour it or send us a picture of your own fall-related artwork (think pumpkins, leaves, Halloween – it's up to you!) and enter to win a toy chainsaw. Ask an adult to email us a photo of your artwork with your first name and age and we'll put your name into the draw.

## How to Enter:

- Colour the picture or send us your own drawing.
- Have an adult take a picture of your artwork and email it with your name, age and your mom/dad's email address to [editor@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafesafe.org)
- Submit your entry by 4pm, Friday, October 31, 2025 (oooh spooky).
- Kids aged 3 – 12 are eligible.
- All entries will be put into a random draw to win the toy chainsaw. The winner will be contacted via their parent's email address and the winning entry will be featured in the December 2025 issue of the Forest Safety News. 🌲



## ABOUT Forest Safety News

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