



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

EVERY FORESTRY WORKER

GOES HOME SAFE - EVERY DAY







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Images provided by Wahkash Contracting Ltd., Holbrook Dyson Logging, Newcastle Timber, AA Trading Ltd, Next Generation Reforestation, Brinkman Reforestation Ltd, Khowutzun Forest Services, Truck Logger's Association and Gorman Bros.



BCFSC respectfully acknowledges the unceded ancestral lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, upon whose land we live and work, and are honoured to have the opportunity to engage and work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis across BC.





Message from the Board Chair and CEO

In 2024, BCFSC continued to advance its strategic priorities concentrating on the highest-risk activities in forestry—those most associated with workplace injuries and fatalities.

These efforts included working closely with industry advisory groups, prioritizing several focus areas aimed at mitigating risks. With an emphasis on practical safety solutions and regional relevance, BCFSC worked closely with industry to deliver a range of initiatives designed to improve safety and reduce risks for workers operating in some of the province's most challenging environments.

In partnership with industry and FPInnovations, BCFSC launched a nine-month pilot project to evaluate the ExTe Automated Log Load Securement System from Sweden. Conducted in BC's central interior, the pilot included both bush run and mill transfer loads. Early results have been highly encouraging, demonstrating significant improvements in both worker safety and operational efficiency. Planning and development were also completed for two additional log load securement technologies—Trinder and RaptorSafe—with pilot programs scheduled to begin in 2025.

We also remained steadfast in our commitment to advance safety and competency standards for hand-fallers. Given the inherently high-risk nature of falling work, efforts were made to prioritize the enhancement of training programs to ensure all fallers—whether new entrants or experienced professionals - consistently met the rigorous safety and competency requirements essential for safe and effective operations supported by 452 faller advocacy engagements.

Efforts also continued to support forestry companies through the SAFE Companies program by delivering training, audit services, and practical safety resources. In 2024, our dedicated Safety Advisors worked directly with 485 companies, helping them strengthen their safety management systems and maintain their SAFE and COR Certification.

With the goal of simplifying safety reporting and enhancing accessibility, we successfully completed the development of the Forest Industry Reporting System (FIRS) App to support a more proactive and organized approach to workplace safety across the forestry sector. To date, over 300 SAFE Certified companies have registered for FIRS, with more than 1,400 active users utilizing the app to support their safety management efforts.

Through expanded access to training, enhanced course content and proactive responses to regulatory changes, BCFSC training helped equip forestry professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to work safely and effectively with over 7,400 training participants.

Efforts also continued to advance safety in BC's sawmill and wood pellet manufacturing sectors through targeted initiatives, collaborative partnerships and practical tools designed to address high-risk activities and emerging challenges. Strengthening frontline leadership, BCFSC supported employers by enhancing supervisory capacity through the release of online training tailored to sawmill and wood pellet manufacturing supervisors with over 417 participants completing seven specialized Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor courses. A new Train-theTrainer course was also developed to expand internal training capabilities. BCFSC also hosted cross-country industry shares and quarterly Different Voices webinars, addressing timely safety topics including wildfire response, heat stress, combustible dust and mobile equipment safety. These sessions empowered safety leaders to take proactive steps in managing workplace hazards.

Financially, BCFSC remains robust, with a strong balance sheet. Our prudent fiscal management has allowed us to navigate the complexities of the past year while continuing to invest in critical safety initiatives.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, contractors, trainers and industry members for their unwavering support and dedication. Every person in our industry has a role to play in achieving our collective mission and together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of forestry workers across British Columbia.

Thank you for your continued efforts and partnership.

Sincerely,



D'Arcy Henderson
Board Chair,
BC Forest Safety Council



Rob Moonen
Chief Executive Officer,
BC Forest Safety Council

1

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC)



Who We Are

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is a not-for-profit health and safety association dedicated to forest harvesting, sawmills and wood pellet manufacturing in British Columbia. BCFSC works collaboratively with employers, workers, unions, contractors and government agencies to support safety initiatives to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities in the forest sector. We provide services to over 5,000 employers and approximately 40,000 workers across BC.

BCFSC is funded by industry contributions through WorkSafeBC annual assessments and is governed by a Board of Directors representing all sectors of forestry.



What We Do

BCFSC works with industry members to identify, develop, implement and continuously enhance and improve health and safety initiatives. Our focus is on fostering a positive health and safety culture and improving safety performance through various means such as SAFE Companies certification, training, resource and program development, planning and assessment.



Our Core Beliefs

The foundation of BCFSC is built upon our core values and beliefs, which guide our actions and decisions based on the following principles:

- All forestry fatalities and injuries are preventable.
- The safety of forestry workers is the utmost priority.
- Safety excellence is key to the long-term success of our industry.
- Injury prevention is most effective when industry owns and leads change.
- Safety is **good** business.





Our History

BCFSC was established in September 2004 in response to the recommendations made by the provincial government's Forest Safety Task Force. The task force aimed to address and reduce the high rates of injuries and fatalities in the forest sector. It included representatives from forestry companies, unions, independent contractors, associations and WorkSafeBC. Two key outcomes of the task force were:

- The industry's adoption of the Health and Safety Accord for the BC Forestry Industry in April 2004.
- The creation of the non-profit society, the BC Forest Safety Council.

BCFSC was created with funding initiated through a special assessment collected by WorkSafeBC, with contributions from the harvesting, hauling and silviculture sectors.

Our Vision

BCFSC is committed to continuously improving and building a strong culture of health and safety in the forestry industry. We achieve this by closely collaborating with all stakeholders to develop, enhance and implement effective safety solutions and delivering them to industry through resources, training, in-field services, sharing best practices and supporting industry safety efforts.

Since 2004, we have persevered with our vision to see **every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.**



2 Strategic Objectives



The [BC Forest Safety Council 2023–2025 Strategic Plan](#) outlines a clear path to achieving our vision of **Every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.** The plan focuses on eliminating fatalities and serious injuries through cultural change, workforce development and continuous safety improvements.

In 2024, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) advanced its strategic priorities concentrating on the highest-risk activities in forestry—those most associated with workplace injuries and fatalities. These include manual tree falling, log transportation, tree planting, equipment operation and wood products manufacturing.

To support these priorities, BCFSC implemented a series of work plan initiatives across four key areas:

1. Promoting cultural change

- **Communicate Safety Initiatives:** BCFSC strengthened its role as a leader in safety training by enhancing communication and promoting industry-led safety initiatives through clear, accessible messaging.
- **Engage and Inform Industry:** Ongoing collaboration with stakeholders helped us focus on developing practical safety standards, best practices and guidelines across the sector.





Strategic Objectives

2. Developing a competent, confident workforce

- **Advance Training and Competency:** Training programs were refined as needed to ensure they remained inclusive, accessible and aligned with current industry needs, fostering a capable and confident workforce.
- **Expand Access to Training:** BCFSC expanded the availability of online, in-person and requested training using enhanced blended training options to support both new and experienced workers.

3. Supporting Effective Safety and Injury Management Systems

- **Support Indigenous Participation:** Collaboration with Indigenous forestry organizations focussed on improving safety awareness, tailoring programs and expanding training access through requested training opportunities.
- **Support Innovation and Technology:** BCFSC worked closely with industry advisory groups to identify and support new and emerging technologies that help reduce the risk of injuries and enhance operational safety systems.
- **Improve Data and Risk Analysis:** Enhanced incident data management enabled more informed prevention strategies which were supported by shared safety alerts and operational safety innovations.

4. Promoting a Safety-conscious Regulatory Framework

- **Foster Regulatory Collaboration and Best Practices:** BCFSC worked closely with regulators and industry to ensure consistent application of regulated safe work practices that align with occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements.

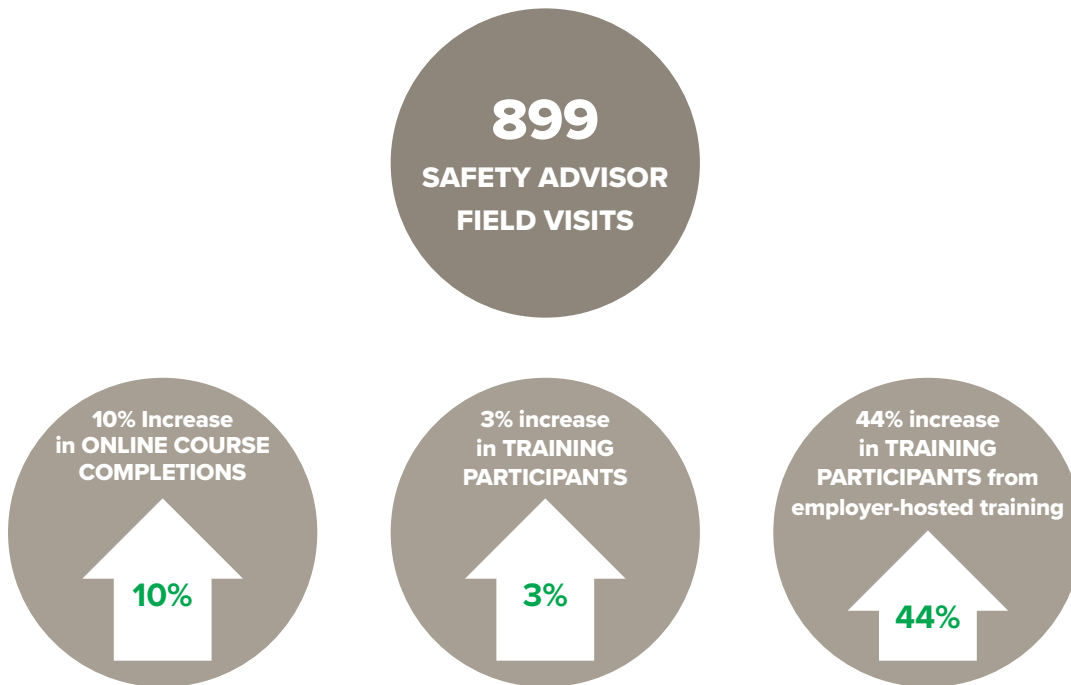
These strategic objectives emphasize BCFSC's commitment to continuous improvement, inclusive industry collaboration and practical safety leadership. By aligning initiatives with emerging risks and supporting workforce diversity and innovation, BCFSC is helping to build a safer, more resilient forestry sector in British Columbia.



3 2024 Key Achievements



Overall Training Highlights



FIRS App – Forest Industry Reporting System

In 2024, the BC Forest Safety Council successfully completed the development of the Forest Industry Reporting System (FIRS) App, delivering a fully functional tool with all planned features. To date, over 300 SAFE Certified companies have registered for FIRS, with more than 1,400 active users utilizing the app to support their safety management efforts.

The FIRS App is a free, mobile forms management solution designed to streamline safety-related documentation and reduce administrative work in the field. The app is available on both iOS and Android platforms and helps small forestry employers to efficiently manage their safety records and maintain their SAFE Company Certification.

By simplifying safety reporting and enhancing accessibility, the FIRS App supports a more proactive and organized approach to workplace safety across the forestry sector.





2024 Key Achievements

Communications and Outreach

Social Media Presence

Throughout 2024, BCFSC effectively leveraged social media channels, our digital subscriber network and our website to provide round-the-clock access to vital safety information for industry using their personal devices and computers.

BCFSC uses Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to keep industry informed of the latest developments. Our YouTube channel is the central hub for our comprehensive safety video library.



2024 vs 2023 Statistics

Facebook	28% increase in followers
Instagram	13% increase in followers
LinkedIn	31% increase in followers
YouTube	25% increase in subscribers

Industry Communication

Forest Safety Newsletter (FSN) – The FSN is BCFSC’s quarterly publication that combines information on Harvesting Safety, Falling, Transportation and Northern Safety, Wood Products Manufacturing Safety, Safety Training and Health and Wellness articles is distributed via email in March, June, September, December to 6,081 subscribers.

Monthly Safety Alerts – BCFSC’s Monthly Safety Alerts/bulletins provide safety incident summaries and key insights to assist with safety planning and update subscribers about the latest BCFSC information for the month. A total of 12 bulletins are distributed each year via email sent at the end of every month to 5,286 subscribers.



Key 2024 Achievements



Safety Conferences

In 2024, we hosted our free, in-person safety conferences on Vancouver Island and in Kamloops, creating valuable opportunities for industry professionals to connect, collaborate and address the unique challenges of forestry safety. These annual events are a vital forum where frontline workers, management and owner/operators come together to share insights, voice concerns and strengthen their collective commitment to building a culture of safety—ensuring every worker gets home safe - every day.

17th Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference

On October 26, 2024, over 295 forestry professionals gathered in Nanaimo for the 17th Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC), themed “Bridging Generations in Today’s Safety Culture.” The event featured keynote speakers and industry experts who explored generational communication, learning from mistakes, and risk awareness in high-risk environments.

Keynote Speaker highlights included Eldeen Pozniak who discussed how to bridge generational gaps in safety communication, Tim Page-Bottorff discussing how to embrace errors and foster trust through the *REAL* approach and Tom Wilson who drew from his personal experience on surviving a plane crash and shared his insights on risk tolerance and the courage to speak up.

Additional sessions covered updates to first aid regulations, hand safety, and the importance of road safety for forestry workers.

2024 Interior Safety Conference

On May 9, 2024, forestry professionals gathered in Kamloops for the Interior Safety Conference, themed “Safety at Work: Inside and Out.” The event focused on personal and workplace safety, featuring impactful talks on mental health, resilience, and injury awareness.

Keynotes included:

- Justin Brien on mental health and stigma,
- Steve Donahue on navigating change,
- Leanne Pozzobon on concussion-related mental health.

Additional sessions covered first aid regulation updates, emergency response planning, and return-to-work legislation. The event was free to attend, thanks to strong industry sponsorship.



Key 2024 Achievements

Leadership in Safety Awards

The BCFSC Leadership in Safety Awards recognize individuals and organizations nominated by their peers for outstanding commitment to workplace safety in British Columbia's forestry sector.

In 2024, three exceptional leaders were honored:

- Bill Bolton received the *Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award* for his lifelong dedication to faller safety and his instrumental role in developing key safety programs.
- Toby Jeffreys was awarded the *Forest Safety MVP Award* for his leadership and mentorship in fostering a strong safety culture at Interfor's Adams Lake Division.
- Chris Fowler earned the *MVP Award for Wood Products Manufacturing* for leading significant safety improvements at Canoe Forest Products and across the Gorman Group.

These awards celebrate the individuals whose leadership continues to shape a safer future for the forestry industry.



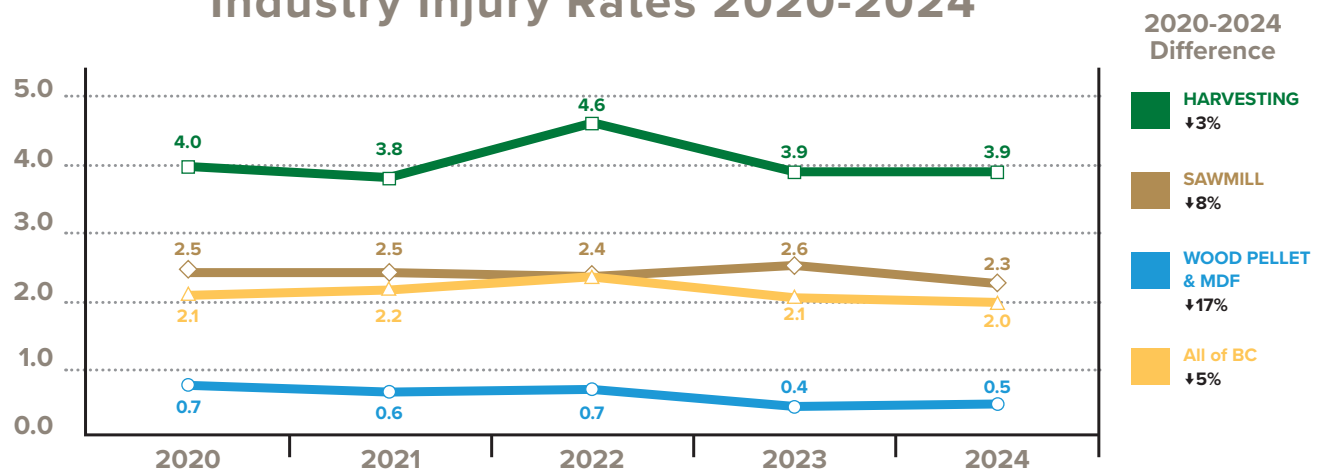
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Industry Statistics and Trends

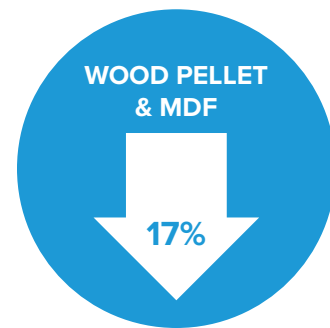


In 2024, the primary contributors to time-loss and serious injuries remained consistent within the Harvesting, Sawmill and Wood Pellets/MDF sectors.

Industry Injury Rates 2020-2024

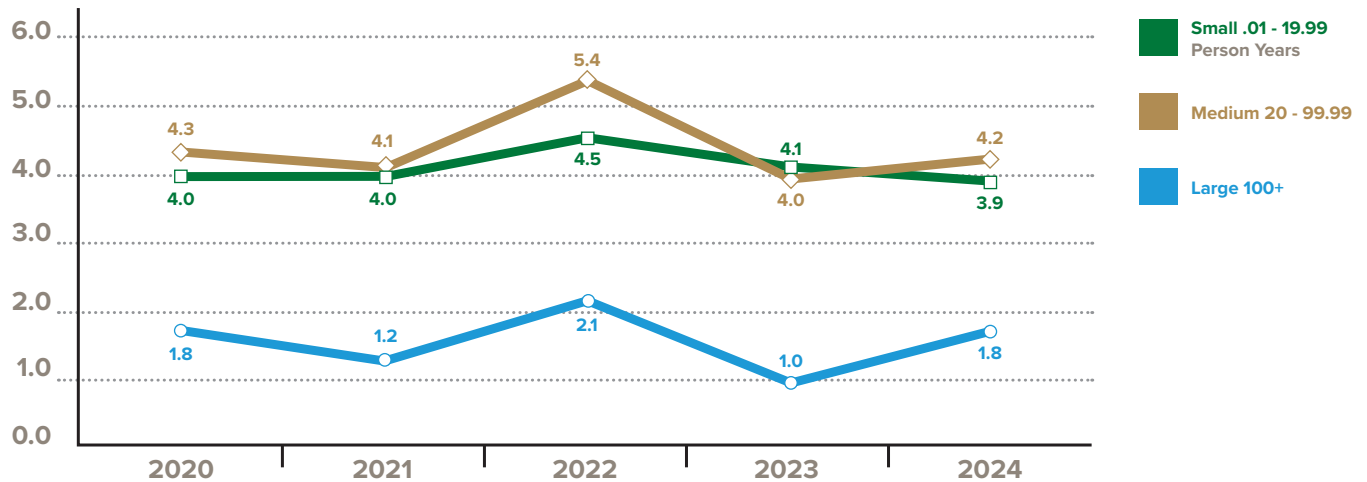


Changes to Injury Rates over the past 5 years



Industry Statistics and Trends

Harvesting Injury Rates 2020-2024 by Employer Size



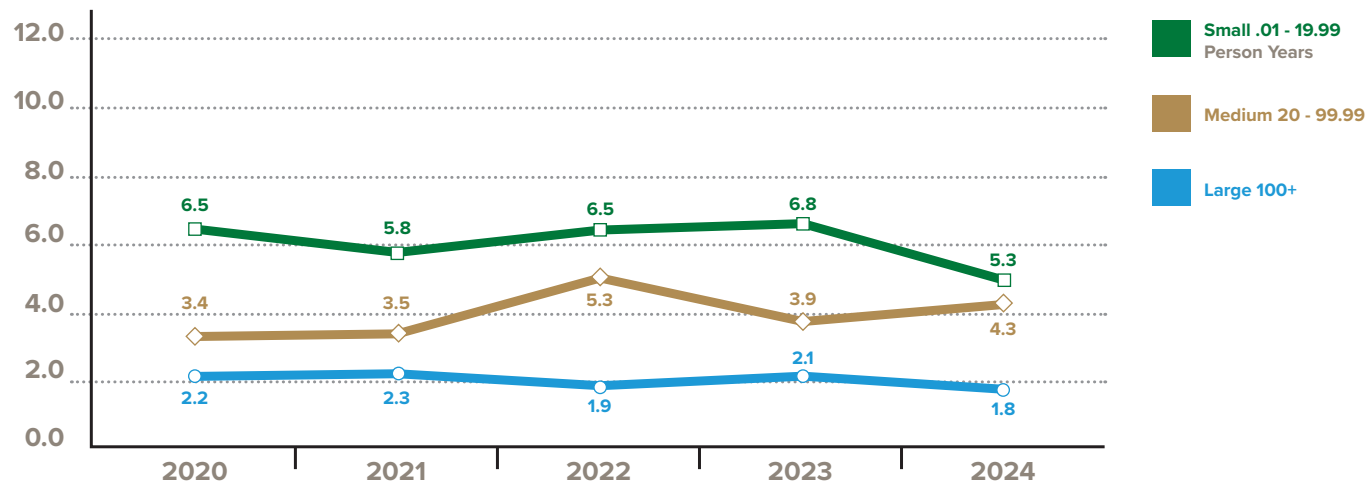
**BCFSC Safety
Advisors completed
899
in-field visits**

Injury rates across several classification units showed mixed results. The overall harvesting injury rate held steady at 3.9, unchanged from 2023, while the sawmill sector saw a slight improvement, decreasing from 2.6 to 2.3. The Wood Pellet/MDF sector experienced a slight increase from 0.4 to 0.5, and the provincial average dropped from 2.1 to 2.0, continuing a positive trend.

BCFSC continues to prioritize support for small and medium-sized employers, who traditionally experience higher injury rates. In 2024, small employers in the harvesting sector reported an injury rate of 3.9, while medium employers saw a slight increase to 4.2. Large employers maintained a lower rate of 1.8, highlighting a gap in safety performance based on employer size.



Sawmill Injury Rates 2020-2024 by Employer Size



In the sawmill sector, small employers improved their injury rate from 6.8 to 5.3, though they still reported rates 2.9 times higher than large employers, who posted a rate of 1.8. Medium-sized sawmill employers saw a slight increase from 3.9 to 4.3, maintaining a rate 2.4 times higher than large employers. These numbers reinforce the importance of targeted safety initiatives for smaller operations.





5 Governance



Board Chair

D'Arcy Henderson – Sr. Vice President, Timberlands and Chief Operating Officer | Mosaic Forest Management

BOARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS (as of December 31, 2024)

Audit & Finance Committee

Provides oversight responsibilities relating to the annual Workplan budget, financial information and policies, internal control systems and the audit process

Chair: **Gordon Murray**

Governance Committee

Advises the Board on governance matters including Board effectiveness and BCFSC membership, along with setting the process for recruitment, appointment and ongoing development of Directors

Chair: **Reid Hedlund**

Human Resources Committee

Helps the Board meet its human resources obligations covering senior management recruitment, compensation and succession planning

Chair: **D'Arcy Henderson**

Program Committee

Gives the Board advice and recommendations on issues related to the effectiveness of BCFSC's certification, training and other safety programs

Chair: **John Betts**

Board of Directors

Board members and their years of service to the Board (as of December 31, 2024):

Matt Austin, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Minister of the Integrated Resource Operations Division – 1 year

John Betts, Executive Director, Western Forestry Contractors' Association – 21 years

Bob Brash, Executive Director, Truck Loggers Association – 4.5 years

Jeff Bromley, Wood Council chairperson, Local 1-1937, United Steelworkers – 4.5 years

Mark Cookson, Operations Manager BC Woodlands, West Fraser – 1 year

Reid Hedlund, Mid Boundary Contracting Ltd. – 18 years

D'Arcy Henderson, Sr. Vice President, Timberlands and Chief Operating Officer, Mosaic Forest Management – 4 years

Lana Kurz, Director, Safety & Risk, Interfor, Canadian Operations – 4.5 years

Ross Lennox, Vice President, Woodlands Canada, Canadian Forest Products – 2 years

Gordon Murray, Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada – 2 years

Ex-Officio

Rob Moonen, CEO, BC Forest Safety Council





Members and Membership

As of December 31, 2024, the BC Forest Safety Council had 57 voting members:

1. BC Community Forest Association (BCCFA)
2. Council of Forest Industries (COFI)
3. Strathcona Falling Ltd.
4. Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA)
5. Interior Logging Association (ILA)
6. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (MFLNRO&RD)
7. North West Loggers Association (NWLTA)
8. United Steelworkers—IWA Council (USWA – IWA)
9. Truck Loggers Association (TLA)
10. Western Fallers' Association (WFA)
11. Western Forestry Contractors' Association (WFCA)
12. Weyerhaeuser Company Limited (WCL)
13. Van Isle Falling LTD.
14. I. Crosby Contracting Ltd.
15. Independent Wood Processors Association (IWPA)
16. Interfor Corporation (INTERFOR)
17. Mosaic Forest Management
18. Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd.
19. Apex Forest & Wildfire Services Ltd.
20. Sladey Timber Ltd.
21. Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Forest Management Group (Canfor)
22. Akehurst and Galvani Reforestation Ltd.
23. Western Forest Products (WFP)
24. Zanzibar Holdings Ltd.
25. Spectrum Resource Group Inc.
26. Greenpeaks Resource Management Ltd.
27. Joe Dowe Enterprises Ltd.
28. Folklore Contracting Ltd.
29. Summit Reforestation & Forest Management Ltd.
30. Namgis First Nation & Atli Resources Corporation
31. Boom Bay Contracting
32. C.A.S. Forest Care Ltd.
33. Cecil Hill Contracting Ltd.
34. Copcan Contracting Ltd.
35. D/T Blasting Ltd.
36. Daniel Boyd Fretts dba Windfall Enterprises
37. Frost Lake Logging Ltd.
38. TDB Consultants Inc.
39. Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
40. W and E Services Ltd.
41. West Fraser Mills Ltd.
42. Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd.
43. Blue Thunder Contracting Ltd.
44. Smokey River Holdings Ltd.
45. Hytest Timber Ltd.
46. Newco Logging Ltd.
47. Superior Selfloading Ltd.
48. Trevor Bennett Trucking Ltd.
49. Stones Bay Holdings Ltd.
50. Strategic Natural Resources Consultants Inc.
51. M.S.M. Falling L.T.D.
52. Sibola Mountain Falling Ltd.
53. Slew Foot Logging Ltd.
54. Western Canadian Timber Products Ltd.
55. Wood Pellet Association of Canada
56. Wilson Bros. Enterprises Ltd.
57. Shayne Bentley c/o Nature's Way Selective Logging

HOW IS MEMBERSHIP DETERMINED?

BCFSC's membership includes forest industry organizations⁽¹⁾ representing workers, employers, government and Crown Corporations.

(1) **Forest Industry Organization** means any firm, corporation, agency, governmental authority, society, other person, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which, as its primary purpose, participates in, regulates or provides services to the British Columbia forest industry; including forest sector companies that financially contribute to a classification unit(s) that support the BC Forest Safety Council activities.

The forest industry funds BCFSC by submitting a request to WorkSafeBC. Levies are determined based on the Classification units (CUs) which include "in woods forest industry," as well as sawmill and Pellet or Pressed Wood Manufacture sectors. Companies that contribute to this industry assessment are eligible to become voting members of BCFSC. To do so, they must send a notice to BCFSC which is reviewed by the Governance Committee.



6 2024 Summary of Activities

SAFE Companies



Since its launch in 2006, the SAFE Companies (Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise) program has served as a foundational safety standard for BC's forestry sector. As a pre-qualification requirement for bidding on forestry work in the province, the program ensures that companies meet and maintain a minimum level of safety performance.

In 2024, BCFSC continued to support forestry companies through the SAFE Companies program by delivering training, audit services, and practical safety resources. Our dedicated Safety Advisors worked directly with **485 companies**, helping them strengthen their safety management systems and maintain their SAFE Certification. Verification audits were adapted to reflect evolving industry needs, ensuring companies remained compliant and eligible for **Certificate of Recognition (COR)** incentives.

2023 vs 2024 Summary – SAFE Companies Training

Training/Audit Type	2023 Count	2024 Count
Small Employer OHS (Initial Training)	200	285
Individual Owner Operator (Initial Training)	70	53
Small Employer OHS (Refresher Training)	200	292
Individual Owner Operator (Refresher Training)	60	60
Internal Auditor (Large) Training	24	21
External Auditor (Large) Training	0	4

2023 vs 2024 SAFE Companies Audit Summary

Training/Audit Type	2023 Count	2024 Count
New SAFE Companies Registrations	200	248
New SAFE Certifications	200	261
SAFE Companies Verification Audits	371	418
WorkSafeBC Initiated Verification Audits (33 companies)	21	29





BUSHIPRO



Summary of Activities

Falling

In 2024, the BCFSC Falling Department remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing safety and competency standards for hand-fallers across British Columbia's forestry sector. Given the inherently high-risk nature of falling work, the department prioritized the enhancement of training programs to ensure all fallers—whether new entrants or experienced professionals—consistently met the rigorous safety and competency requirements essential for safe and effective operations.

Key Initiatives and Achievements

Trainer Support and Quality Assurance

This year, the department increased its focus on quality assurance through targeted visits during the 180-day training period. These visits enabled Falling Safety Advisors to assess training effectiveness, monitor trainee progress and provide constructive feedback to both trainers and trainees. Additional mentorship was provided to new Qualified Faller Trainers (QFTs) during the initial days of the 30-day training program, ensuring adherence to the BC Faller Training Standard.

Supervisor Assessment and Tailgate Talks

Progress continued on transitioning the Certified Falling Supervisor Assessment from a points-based to a competency-based model. Under this new approach, all required outcomes must be met for certification, with gap training and reassessment provided as needed. To support falling supervisors, BCFSC is also expanding access to faller-specific tailgate safety talks through a dedicated section on its website, developed in collaboration with the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC).

Industry Engagement and Safety Advocacy

Falling Safety Advisors played a key role in mentoring and supporting industry stakeholders across the province. Their efforts included conducting company reviews, supporting falling supervisors and ensuring quality assurance for new faller trainees. These engagements have significantly contributed to improving safety practices and elevating operational standards throughout industry.

Collaboration and Standards Development

BCFSC worked with the BC Wildfire Service, the Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors and WorkSafeBC to review and validate the Faller Practical Field Assessment. Meetings held in Campbell River and Nelson focused on refining the document's content and structure. This collaborative effort will continue into 2025, with the goal of finalizing and approving the updated assessment tool.





Summary of Activities

Falling

2024 Milestones

- **New Faller Training:** 2 courses completed, 7 new trainee candidates
- **Industry Training:** 8 courses completed, 8 new faller trainees
- **Qualified Faller Trainer Course:** 4 certified fallers completed QFT training

Falling Department Activities	Count
Faller Certification Challenge Assessments	6
New Faller Training Assessments	9
Falling Supervisor Certifications	7
Quality Assurance Visits (180-day)	17
Quality Assurance - Trainers	14
Company Reviews	18
Falling Advocate Engagements	398

Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)

The FTAC includes representatives from across the forestry sector, including fallers, contractors, licensees, First Nations, and industry associations. Their insights and collaboration continue to shape the development of training standards, safety resources, and operational best practices.

Top Priorities for 2025

- Development of safe work procedures for inclusion in the BC Faller Training Standard
- Updates to the Falling Supervisor Info Flip
- Creation of new Tailgate Safety Talks tailored for Falling Supervisors

Injury Rates 2020-2024



Serious Injury Rates 2020-2024



Summary of Activities

Transportation and Northern Safety

In 2024, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC), worked closely with industry advisory groups and prioritized several focus areas in transportation and northern safety. These efforts were aimed at mitigating risks in log hauling and harvesting, with the goal of reducing serious incidents and fatalities. With an emphasis on practical safety solutions and regional relevance, BCFSC delivered a range of initiatives designed to improve safety and reduce risks for workers operating in some of the province's most challenging environments.

2024 Highlights

Video Releases

Emergency Response Planning (ERP) Video Series

BCFSC expanded its ERP Video Series with a new installment focused on emergency response in steep slope forestry operations. The video featured a real-world emergency drill conducted by a licensee and harvesting contractor, demonstrating how employers can assess the effectiveness of their ERP, identify gaps, and implement improvements. This series was developed in partnership with numerous industry stakeholders, including the Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group, Coast Harvesting Advisory Group, Gorman Group, Conifex, Canfor, Interfor, Western Forest Products, Sinclair Group, Tolko, Mosaic Forest Management, Weyerhaeuser, West Fraser, Upper Similkameen Indian Band and J&L Logging Ltd.

Safety Byte Video Series

To help increase awareness and engagement with key safety topics, BCFSC introduced the Safety Byte Video Series—a collection of concise, 60-second videos that summarize key safety topics from previously released, longer-format safety videos. Each Safety Byte focuses on a specific topic, such as Lift Strap/Molly Inspections, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Load Securement, and Resource Road Radio Calling, and includes links to additional resources.

Load Securement – Correct Techniques Toolbox Series

A new toolbox video series was introduced to help log hauling contractors reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries (MSIs) during load securement. These videos demonstrate safe, effective techniques tailored to different preferences and equipment availability, including:

- Underhand Throwing Using a Lead Rope
- Throw Assist Using a Pole
- Improved Throwing Method C (leveraging body mechanics)
- Using Elevated Platforms





Summary of Activities

Transportation and Northern Safety

Innovation in Automated Log Load Securement – Pilot Project

In partnership with Tolko, Timber Services Ltd. and FPIInnovations, BCFSC launched a nine-month pilot project to evaluate the **ExTe Automated Log Load Securement System** from Sweden. Conducted in British Columbia's central interior, the pilot includes both bush run and mill transfer loads. Early results have been highly encouraging, demonstrating significant improvements in both **operational efficiency and worker safety**. The final project report was released in July 2025.

Emerging Technology Pilots

Planning and development were completed for two additional log load securement technologies—**Trinder** and **RaptorSafe**—with pilot programs scheduled to begin in 2025.

Driver and Operator Training

- **Professional Industry Driver Program:** 16 students trained in partnership with industry
- **Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Training:**
 - » 182 participants trained in Spring 2024
 - » 81 additional participants trained as of May 2025
- **Resource Road Driver Training:**
 - » A total of **1,821 drivers trained**



Summary of Activities

Manufacturing Safety

In 2024, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) continued to advance safety in British Columbia's sawmill and wood pellet manufacturing sectors through targeted initiatives, collaborative partnerships and practical tools designed to address high-risk activities and emerging challenges.

Strengthening Frontline Leadership

BCFSC supported small and medium-sized employers by enhancing supervisory capacity through the release of online training tailored to sawmill and wood pellet manufacturing supervisors.

Over 417 participants completed seven specialized Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor courses covering topics such as Due Diligence, Hazard Identification, Contractor Management and Leadership. A new Train-the-Trainer course was also developed to expand internal training capabilities.

Knowledge Sharing and Engagement

BCFSC hosted cross-country industry shares and quarterly *Different Voices* webinars, addressing timely safety topics including wildfire response, heat stress, combustible dust and mobile equipment safety. These sessions empowered safety leaders to take proactive steps in managing workplace hazards.

Research and Innovation Projects

In 2024, BCFSC led several research initiatives to address critical safety challenges in wood products manufacturing. These projects were designed to support sawmill and wood pellet operations in navigating complex safety risks and aligning with evolving WorkSafeBC regulatory standards.

- 1. Mobile Equipment Safety:** Supported by a WorkSafeBC Applied Innovation grant, this project used bowtie analysis and applied research to enhance pedestrian safety and optimize site layouts in sawmill and wood pellet facilities.
- 2. Combustible Dust Compliance:** In response to updated WorkSafeBC regulations, BCFSC developed practical tools and action plans to help operations identify gaps and implement effective dust management strategies.

Additional studies conducted in collaboration with the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) explored high-risk areas including:

- Working at heights
- Combustible dust in ventilation systems
- Wood dust explosivity
- Safety implications of processing burnt wood

These research efforts continue to inform industry best practices and drive innovation in workplace safety.





Summary of Activities

Manufacturing Safety

Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) Initiatives

In partnership with MAG, BCFSC completed 13 MAG Safe Audits in 2024, identifying opportunities for improvement in areas such as working from heights, safeguarding, mobile equipment, lockout procedures and proposed combustible dust regulations—aligning closely with WorkSafeBC’s focus areas. MAG also led in-person workshops attended by 111 participants, covering topics like Return to Work, Human and Organizational Performance and Psychological Safety.

Resource Development

To support ongoing safety improvements, BCFSC released free, shareable resources including:

- 50 Manufacturing Safety Crew Talks
- 49 Manufacturing Safety Alerts
- 2 Manufacturing Safety Innovations

These tools were designed to promote operational efficiency and reinforce safe work practices across the sector.

Wood Pellet Production Safety

BCFSC and the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) collaborated on several key safety initiatives:

- **Process Safety Management (PSM):** A comprehensive research project provided a roadmap for integrating PSM into wood pellet facilities, including gap analysis tools, best practices and a phased implementation strategy aligned with CSA Z767.
- **Drum Dryer Safety:** A symposium led to the formation of a working group focused on improving rotary drum dryer safety.



Summary of Activities

Training

In 2024, BCFSC continued to strengthen its commitment to safety, education and industry support. Through expanded access to training, enhanced course content and proactive responses to regulatory changes, the department helped equip forestry professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to work safely and effectively. From launching new courses to improving the online learning experience, BCFSC's efforts reflect a year of innovation, collaboration and significant progress across the sector.

In-person
Training
1,093

Expanded Access and Engagement

- Online training modules shared with external partners resulted in an additional 1,180 course completions, the majority of which were for *"Introduction to Dangerous Trees on Forestry Worksites"* delivered internally by BC Wildfire Service.
- BCFSC added three new instructors to support the delivery of industry-relevant safety training.

Online
Training
5,147

Course Enhancements

- The BCFSC Training department updated several key courses, including:
 - » *Resource Road Safety Training and Resource Road Driver Training*
 - » *Off-Road Vehicle Safety Training and Off-Road Vehicle Operator Training (now includes instructional videos)*
 - » *Basic Chainsaw Operator Training*
 - » *Falling Supervisor Training*
 - » *Joint Health & Safety Committee Training*
 - » *Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors*
- BCFSC also updated all training courses to incorporate the updated First Aid requirements that came into effect November 1, 2024.
- BCFSC's online courses were further improved with new visuals, enhanced narration and amended assessments to improve learner engagement and comprehension.

Improved User Experience

- Training web pages were revamped to better support Worker Assessments and clarify individual course offerings with improved learning outcomes and descriptions.





Summary of Activities

Training

Support for WorkSafeBC First Aid Regulatory Changes

- BCFSC provided comprehensive communication and employer support for WorkSafeBC's First Aid Regulation updates, including:
 - » First Aid Regulatory Changes – A Forest Industry Perspective – WorkSafeBC webinar that explained into the changes that affect BC's forestry sector.
 - » An instructional video on how to implement the new First Aid Regulatory changes
 - » A series of Safety Alerts specific to the First Aid Regulatory changes
- BCFSC met with instructors to discuss best practices and ensure consistent messaging in training programs.
- BCFSC launched weekly social media campaigns to promote training opportunities and reinforce safety messaging.

BCFSC New Course Development

- BCFSC introduced a new course called *Legal Requirements for Forestry Blasting* that explores the legislation and regulations governing blasting activities in forestry operations.
- BCFSC introduced a new course for *Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor - Contractor Management*. The course is designed to help wood products manufacturing supervisors understand their responsibilities when working with contractors.

Industry Support

- BCFSC froze in-person training fees at 2022 levels to help alleviate financial pressures on industry partners.



7 Financials



The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) maintained a strong financial position in 2024, ending the year with unrestricted cash reserves of \$2.92 million, representing a 15.8% increase (\$397,107) over the previous year. The organization reported an operating surplus of \$221,621, reflecting continued fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency.

The financial statements were independently audited by MNP LLP, who issued an unmodified opinion, conveying the statements present a fair and accurate view of BCFSC's financial position in all material respects.

BCFSC Financial Summary – 2024 vs 2023

Unrestricted Cash

2024

\$2,918,406

2023

\$2,521,299

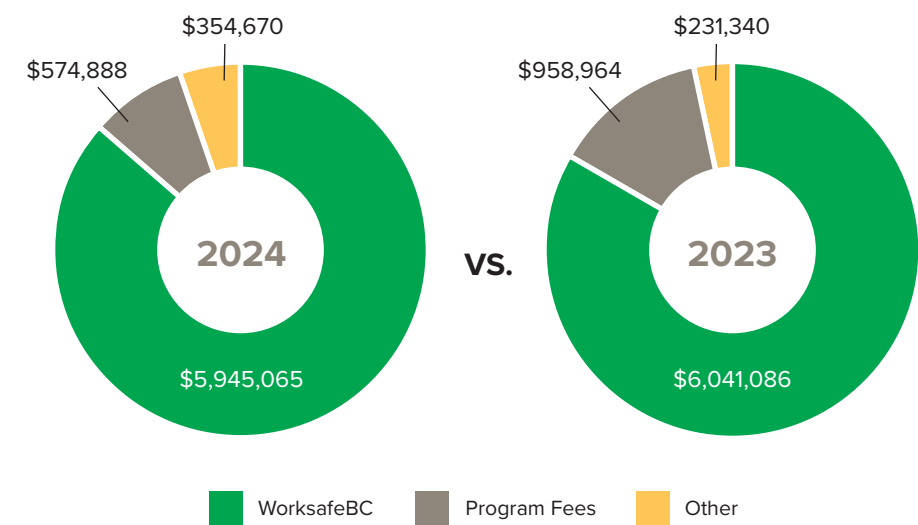


BC Forest Safety Council
BCFSC

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

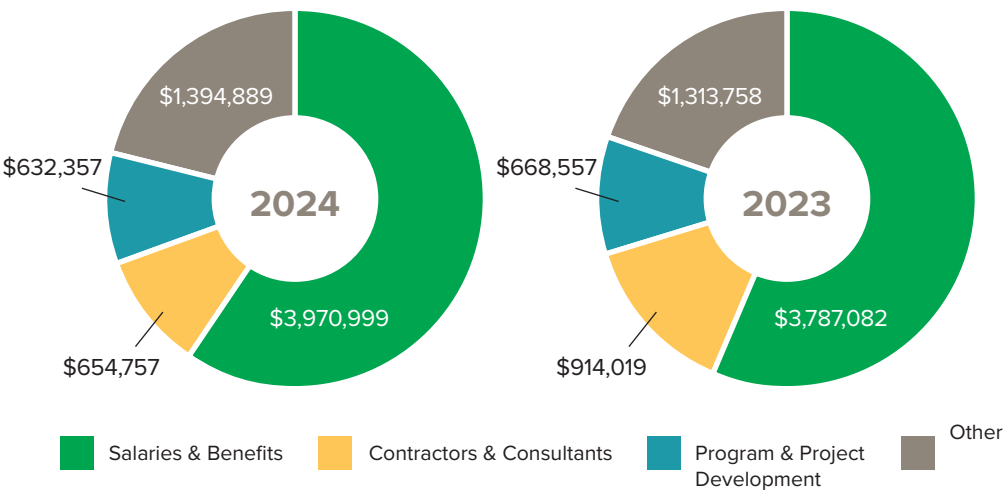
Revenue

2024	2023
\$6,874,623	\$7,231,390
WorksafeBC: \$5,945,065	WorksafeBC: \$6,041,086
Program Fees: \$574,888	Program Fees: \$958,964
Other: \$354,670	Other: \$231,340



Expenses

2024	2023
\$6,653,002	\$6,683,416
Salaries & Benefits: \$3,970,999	Salaries & Benefits: \$3,787,082
Contractors & Consultants: \$654,757	Contractors & Consultants: \$914,019
Program & Project Development: \$632,357	Program & Project Development: \$668,557
Other: \$1,394,889	Other: \$1,313,758



The 2024 BCFSC audited financial statements are available on the [BCFSC website](https://bcforestsafesite.org).



8

Industry Advisory Groups



Throughout 2024, BCFSC's Advisory Groups played a critical role in advancing safety, training and operational excellence across the forestry sector. Their invaluable contributions are key to ensuring workplace safety within BC's forest harvesting, sawmill and pellet production sectors are the top priority so **every worker can go home safe - every day.**

Each group is focused on key initiatives that are aligned with industry needs and regulatory developments.



Harvesting Groups

Coast Harvesting Advisory Committee (CHAG)

Ann-Marie Baron, Lemare Group
Bill Nelson, Holbrook Dyson
Jason Cox, United Steelworkers
Craig Tilander, Ministry of Forests
Derek Nelson, Western Forest Products
Ralph Friedrich, Interfor
Mike Reagon, Mosaic Forest Management
Dazy Weymer, FTAC
Matt Enns, Meraki Resources

Top areas of focus:

- Incident data collection and analysis across forest operations.
- Emergency response planning and execution.
- Safety protocols for danger tree blasting.

Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)

Martin Evans, Certified Utility Arborist
Dazy Weymer, Community Forests / Danger Tree Blasting
Bridger Schmidt, Falling Contractor
Kirk Bell, Falling Contractor
Terry Greaves, Falling Contractor
Rob Pridge, Falling Contractor
Richard Butler, Falling Contractor
Doug Harrison, Falling Contractor
Wade Schalm, Falling Contractor
Shaun Pheonix, Falling Contractor
Jason August, First Nations Forestry
Kaitlin Scown, Independent Faller
Mike Davidson, Independent Faller
Clint Cleverley, Independent Faller
Neil Campbell, Independent Faller
Todd Chamberlain, Interior Logging Association
Conor Pierce, Mosaic Forest Management
Robert Shambrook, Western Forest Products
Clay Govett, Aspen Planers
Robert Scott, Interfor
Toby Jeffreys, Interfor
Steve Kerrone, Logging Contractor
Creole Dufour, Logging Contractor
Shawn Sullivan, Ministry of Forests
Justin Durning, Truck Loggers Association
Jason Cox, United Steelworkers
Jacob Van Dort, Western Fallers Association
Barry Manfield, Western Forestry Contractors' Association

Observers:

Darcy Moshenko & Tom Pawlowski, WorkSafeBC
Chris Miller, WorkSafeBC Forestry, OHS Consultation and Education Services
Chris Spronken, BC Wildfire Service
Tashia Olmstead, Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors

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Advisory Groups cont...



Top areas of focus:

- Development of safe work procedures for inclusion in the BC Faller Training Standard.
- Development of Tailgate Safety Talks tailored for Falling Supervisors.

BC Safe Forestry Program - Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)

Chris Akehurst, Akehurst and Galvani Reforestation (retired)

Brian Beaudry, Brinkman Reforestation

John Betts, Western Forestry Contractors' Association

Sylvia Fenwick-Wilson, Zanzibar Holdings Ltd.

Simon Hall, Spectrum Resource Group

Tammy Laidlaw, Blue Collar Group

Robin McCullough, Brinkman Reforestation

Dr. Jordan Tesluk, Forest Safety Advocate

Crawford Young, Silverado Silviculture Ltd.

Ryan Zapisocki, Windfirm Resources

Craig Moore, Rider Ventures

Richard King, BCFSC

Sally Asu, BC Timber Sales

Cody Sundlie, Canfor

Caitlyn McWhirter, Strategic Natural Resource Consultants

Janine Perley, Next Generation Reforestation

Observers:

Tom Pawlowski, WorkSafeBC

Caitlyn Klautt, WorkSafeBC

Will Dirksen, WorkSafeBC

Top areas of focus:

- Industry engagement through *The Cache* web project.
- Workforce upskilling strategies including climate adaptation, indigenous awareness, and diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Evaluation of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) for silviculture.

Woodlot and Community Forest - Safety Advisory Committee (WLCF-SAC)

Gord Chipman – Executive Director, Woodlots BC

Jennifer Gunter - Executive Director, BC Community Forest Association

Hugh Watt - True North Forestry Consulting

Ken Dodd - Woodlot Licensee

Rick Walters - Woodlot Owner/Williams Lake

Warren Hansen - Manager Sechelt Community Forest

Top areas of focus:

- Enhancing awareness of safety responsibilities among WL-CFA licensees.
- Addressing safety concerns related to extreme weather events.
- Development and promotion of safety tools and resources.

Danger Tree Blasting Committee (DTBC)

Dazy Weymer, D/T Blasting Ltd.

Derek Nelson, Western Forest Products

Doug Grant, Edge Contracting

Christopher Miller, WorkSafeBC

Tim Loblaw, WorkSafeBC

Top areas of focus:

- Development of sustainable competency-based training
- Addressing regulation and related legal requirements
- Development of industry safe practices



Advisory Groups cont...

SAFE Companies Advisory Committee (SCAC)

Ann Marie Baron, Lemare Group of Companies
Valerie Dettwiler, Griffon Safety Solutions Ltd.
Dennis Thideman, Edynamics
Shawn Sullivan, Ministry of Forests
Dr. Jordan Tesluk, Forest Safety Advocate

Observers

Rommel Dela Resma, WorkSafeBC

Top areas of focus:

- Ongoing recruitment for new committee members.
- Monitoring WorkSafeBC's decisions on COR and evaluating implications for future direction.

Access Management Working Group (AMWG)

Allan Bradley, FPInnovations
Benjamin Pellet, Ministry of Forests
Caity Klaudt, WorkSafeBC
Greg Hislop, Gorman Bros.
Janine Schroeder, BCTS
John Betts, Western Forestry Contractors' Association
Jordan Tesluk, Western Forestry Contractors' Association
Kori Vernier, Canfor
Mark Seilis, Cariboo Carbon

Top areas of focus:

- Development of best practices to enhance worker safety.
- Creation of resources and standards exceeding provincial requirements.
- Promotion of awareness, training, and engagement among stakeholders.

Transportation Safety Groups

Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group (TAG)

Working Task Team

Vern Woods, Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee
Jerry Mooney, Tolko
John Rowe, Canfor
Ryan Wertz, Interfor
Greg Hislop, Gorman Bros.
Marty Hiemstra, Mercer Forestry Services Ltd.
Marla Nicol, Conifex
Ron Volansky, R&A Logging
Mike Reagon, Mosaic Forest Management
Mark Cookson, West Fraser Mills
Cory Yurkowski, Weyerhaeuser
Adam Wells, Sinclair Group

TAG Steering Committee

Mark Cookson, West Fraser Mills
Nick Arkle, Gorman Bros Lumber Ltd.
Larry Price, Interfor
John Rowe, Canfor
Marty Hiemstra, Mercer Forestry Services Ltd.
Greg Munden, Munden Advisors
Todd Chamberlain, Interior Logging Association
Andrew McLellan, Conifex
Craig Tilander, BC Timber Sales
Bruce McLean, Sinclair Group
Norm Druck, Weyerhaeuser
Mike Reagon, Mosaic Forest Management
Jerry Mooney, Tolko

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Advisory Groups cont...



Top areas of focus:

- Collection and analysis of incident data across forest operations.
- Promotion and implementation of TAG best practices.
- Focus on log load securement improvements.

Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee (LTTAC)

Vern Woods, Vern's Ventures
 Peter Bueckert, P. J. Bueckert Logging Ltd.
 James Sinnett, FP Innovations
 Dave Barden, Barden Contracting Ltd.
 Mat Lennox, Mosaic Forest Management
 Greg Munden, Munden Advisors
 Courtenay Lowther, Commercial Vehicle Inspections and Standards
 Jeremy Kuharchuk, Blue Valley Enterprises
 Mike Petersen, Western Forest Products
 Earl Houlden, WorkSafeBC
 Joe Mayhew, Mercer Forestry Services

Top areas of focus:

- Development of a log truck driver competency framework and professional endorsement.
- Promotion of professionalism in log hauling.
- Identification and response to emerging safety issues.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Committee

Samantha Eburne, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure / CVSE
 Geoff Ford, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure / CVSE
 Courtenay Lowther, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure / CVSE
 David Stearns, Excel Transportation
 Greg Munden, Munden Advisors
 Todd Chamberlain, Interior Logging Association

Top areas of focus:

- Analysis of provincial safety data.
- Focus on anti-lock braking system (ABS) safety and electronic stability control.
- Engagement with GHG regulations and their implications.

Load Securement Working Group

Ken Pedersen, Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group
 Mithun Shetty, FPInnovations
 Jerry Mooney, Timber Services Ltd., Log Hauling Contractor
 Peter Bueckert, P. J. Bueckert Logging

Top areas of focus:

- Incident data analysis related to load securement.
- Evaluation of load securement techniques and technologies.
- Risk analysis and development of control measures.

Wood Fibre Hauling Safety Group (WFHSG)

Matt Cook, Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.
 Daniel Strobbe, Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.
 Jordan Barnes, Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.
 Wade Linfitt, Excell Transportation
 David Stearns, Excel Transportation
 Keith Bradner, Excel Transportation
 Pete Davies, Lomak
 Cole Turner, Lomak
 Ahmad Abou-Chkair, Sutherland Group

Top areas of focus:

- Collection and analysis of incident data.
- Injury prevention strategies.
- Advancement of professional driver training and assessment.



Advisory Groups cont...



Manufacturing Safety Groups

Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG)

Mark Todd, Canfor
Ian Webb, Weyerhaeuser
Daniel Gunton, Carrier Lumber Ltd.
Tristan Anderson, Coastland
Marla Nicol, Conifex
Tony Mogus, Dunkley
David Murray, Gorman Group
Ian Gray, Hampton Affiliates
Daniel Ruzic, Interfor
Ben Cram, Kalesnikoff
Grant Fast, Sinclair Group
Tim Boyes, Sinclair Group
Scott Wynn, Tolko (MAG Group Chair)
Lori Saretsky, West Fraser
Troy Withey, West Fraser
Mike Dufour, Western Forest Products
Theressa Klein, Western Forest Products
Jay Pillappan, Weyerhaeuser

Top areas of focus:

- Support for combustible dust regulation changes and critical control strategies.
- Province-wide wood dust testing (burnt wood, process dust, fugitive dust).
- Development of a “closing the gap” document to address process safety performance issues identified in the 2024 WorkSafeBC pilot.

Forest Industry Forum - Manufacturing Technical Working Group

David Murray, Gorman Group
Grant Fast, Sinclair Group
Marla Nicol, Conifex
Lori Saretsky, West Fraser
Scott Wynn, Tolko
Mike Dufour, Western Forest Products
Mark Todd, Canfor
Frank Wall, Premium Pellets
Jeff Johnston, DRAX
Jason Lennox, Domtar
Ed Kent, United Steelworkers

Observers:

Don Schouten, WorkSafeBC
Mike Tasker, WorkSafeBC
Kim Stubbs, WorkSafeBC
Alison Jones, WorkSafeBC
Steven Mueller, WorkSafeBC

Wood Pellet Association of Canada Safety Committee (WPAC-SC)

Ehsan Ahmadi, Aon Risk Solutions
Scott Bax, CM Biomass Partners
William Berg, Premium Pellet Ltd.
Nathan Bond, Skeena Bioenergy Ltd.
Michel Boudreau, Shaw Renewables
Amber Bouska, Drax
Tim Boyes, Sinclair Group
Karen Brandt, Brandt Strategy Inc.
Kayleigh Brown, Obex Risk
Keith Culligan, Shaw Renewables
J-örgen Dehlbom, Firefly AB

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Advisory Groups cont...



Russ Dykstra, Brink - Platinum Pellets
 Michael Fantillo, Premium Pellet Ltd.
 Amanda Fee, West Fraser
 Shawn Gamble, Brink - Platinum Pellets
 Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables
 Tim Heneks, Dustcon Solutions
 Jeff Johnston, Drax
 Jay Juvenal, CV Technology
 Brad Kelly, Brink - Platinum Pellets
 Jason Krbec, CV Technology
 Phillipe Landry, Grand River Pellets
 Rene Landry, Shaw Renewables
 Nicholas MacGougan, Grand River Pellets
 Travis McCue, Canfor
 Andre Michaud, Group GDS
 P.O. Morency, Groupe Lebel
 Trevor Murdock, Premium Pellet Ltd.
 Gordon Murray, Wood Pellet Association of Canada
 Jeff Mycroft, Fike Canada Inc.
 Eric Neil, Shaw Renewables
 Arlene Pagan, Dustcon Solutions
 Rachael Paley, West Pine
 Darrell Robinson, Shaw Renewables
 Jon Ross, Drax
 Greg Rye, West Fraser
 Lori Saretsky, West Fraser
 Yves-Marc Schade, STELA Laxhuber GmbH
 Serge Sirois, Grand River Pellets
 Jeremy Slaunwhite, Rembe Inc.
 Shahab Sokhansanj, UBC -Biomass and Bioenergy Research Group
 Jason Stockall, Drax
 John Swaan, FutureMetrics
 Frank Wall, Premium Pellet Ltd.
 Daniel Washburn, Shaw Renewables
 Sheldon Wheeler, Canfor
 Matt White, Drax
 Miles Wright, Great Northern Timber
 Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Wood Pellet Association of Canada
 Chris Zuberec, BFL Canada

Top areas of focus:

- Rotary Dryer and Process Safety Management (PSM) implementation and safety advancement.
- Support for combustible dust regulation compliance and critical control management.
- Mental health initiatives for industry workers.

The partnerships between the BCFSC and industry safety working groups play a pivotal role in developing impactful safety solutions. These joint efforts help foster an understanding of the vital role a strong safety culture plays within forestry operations. Safety is not just about safeguarding workers; it's about creating a legacy of safety excellence that is integral to operational success.



EVERY FORESTRY WORKER
GOES HOME SAFE - EVERY DAY



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

bcforestsafe.org