



SAFETY ALERT

OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Don't Cut Corners

AOM: 2025-11-19

You've probably heard the expressions "*cutting corners*" or "*taking shortcuts*." This means doing something the easiest or fastest way while skipping steps or ignoring safety procedures. It can be tempting when you're under time or financial pressure—but this practice greatly increases the risk of incidents and must be avoided.

- **Avoid rushing.** Rushing often leads to poor decisions, like not wearing safety glasses or other PPE. Before starting a task, pause briefly and confirm you have the required PPE. Remind yourself of the long-term consequences of injuries—such as permanent vision loss—to reinforce why PPE matters.
- **Luck is not a safety strategy.** Sometimes shortcuts don't cause immediate harm, but they can create a false sense of security and will reinforce unsafe habits. Over time, this can lead to drifting away from using proper procedures.
- **Stay in your lane—literally.** When driving, stay on your side of the road to avoid oncoming traffic. Never speed or drive aggressively to make up time; these behaviours are the leading causes of vehicle incidents.
- **Lead by example.** Your actions set the standard. If you take shortcuts, others may assume that's the normal way to work, especially young or new workers.
- **Lock out every time.** Never skip lockout/tagout procedures. Always de-energize equipment before working on it. Failing to lock out can result in catastrophic or even fatal injuries.
- **Pause and assess risks.** At the start of work—or whenever conditions change—take a moment to evaluate your worksite. A quick check will help you spot hazards that you might otherwise miss.
- **Protect your health.** Don't cut corners on mental well-being. Stress can lead to withdrawal or unhealthy coping mechanisms like drugs or alcohol, which create bigger problems such as impairment at work and long-term health issues. Reach out for support when needed.



Resources:

- 1) Free online training - [Safe Decision Making in a Forestry Workplace](#)
- 2) [Lock Out Resource Package](#)
- 3) [Mental Health and Impairment Resources](#)



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BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[BCFSC Website User Survey](#) - Provide your feedback on our website and help us understand how you navigate our site, as well as what changes would make it more useful, intuitive, and user-friendly.

[New Course – Virtual Instructor Led Basic Incident Investigation](#) – The regular Basic Incident Investigation training is also available as a requested instructor-led virtual course which is convenient for companies with employees located around the province. It includes a combination of instructor-led virtual meetings and learning activities through BCFSC's online Learning Centre. The training is scheduled as two half-day sessions to provide flexibility for participants who are actively working.

[Forest Safety News](#) – read the latest issue of the FSN

[FIRS App](#) – The full version of the BCFSC FIRS App is now available to download from your App store. Use the FIRS App manage forms and documents for safety-related paperwork related to SAFE Companies and COR audit forms management.

BCFSC Training:

The 2026 training dates have been posted on the BCFSC website. **[View the 2026 Course Schedule here.](#)**

Worker Assessment and Training

Each forestry occupation requires different knowledge and skillsets to perform the job at hand. BCFSC worked with industry to develop competency-based standards, training, and assessment tools to help employers evaluate workers and complete on-the-job training.

Take a look at our **[FREE assessment forms](#)** for Basic Forest Workers, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting and Road Building.

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