



BCFSC Forestry Blasting Program: Building Safer Operations Through Training

“Industry members identified that there were limited training and self-assessment options for forest industry blasters, so we worked with subject matter experts to develop three online blasting courses which are free and easy to access”

— Gerard Messier - Manager, Program Development, BCFSC

Forestry blasting is a critical operation that demands precision, safety, and compliance. To address industry concerns and improve access to training, the **BCFSC Online Forestry Blasting Program** was developed in collaboration with industry experts. This program is designed for individuals involved in blasting operations within forestry environments and offers three courses at no cost, each providing a record of completion. Participants have the option of taking one or all three of the courses in the program.



Courses:

- **Blasting Hazards and Safety – 1 hour**

Learn to identify hazards before, during, and after a blast, including flyrock, overhead hazards, ground hazards, and environmental risks.

- **Legal Requirements for Forestry Blasting – 2 hours**

Understand the regulatory framework and compliance obligations for forestry blasting operations. The focus is on knowledge of the legal requirements related to the storage, transportation and use of explosives

- **Blasting Techniques – 5.5 hours**

Participants will learn pre- and post-blast procedures, how to develop detailed blasting plans, and essential safety measures. The course also covers the types

of explosives, initiation systems, and their proper use to ensure controlled and efficient forestry blasting operations.

Total Blasting Program duration:: 8.5 hours for all three courses.

Certification Requirements

In BC, anyone working as a blaster **MUST** be certified by **WorkSafeBC**, and all blasting work must fall within the scope of their certificate. To become certified, blasters must:

- Provide documentation of knowledge, qualifications, and experience, including a minimum of **8 hours of training** related to safe handling of explosives.
- Pass a written exam.

For more details, visit WorkSafeBC.

How Our Training Helps

Our program helps new forestry blasters prepare for certification and is an excellent option for meeting the **6 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** required for certified blasters.

It also benefits **contract managers and supervisors** who want a deeper understanding of blasting operations and safety requirements.

Enrollment information is available on our website: [Forestry Blasting Program](#) 📄



Trainer Course Relaunch: Enhanced and Ready for Enrollment!

The BC Forest Safety Council's (BCFSC) free Trainer Course is back, and it's better than ever. This updated course features improved visuals and revised content that includes forestry-specific examples that will help supervisors and trainers conduct effective on-the-job and classroom-based training. It is highly recommended for companies using BCFSC's competency-based system for worker assessment and training.

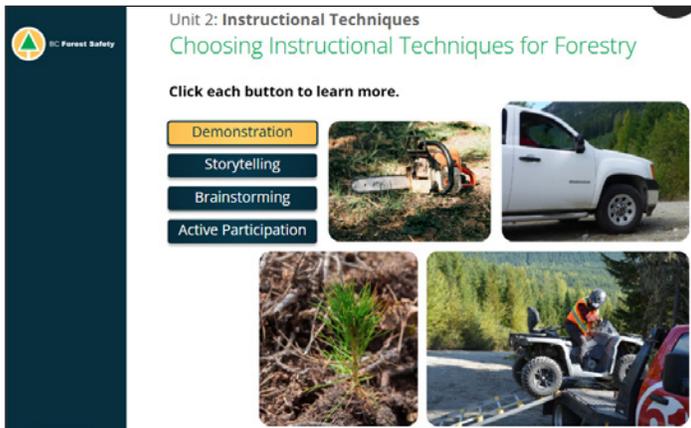
The course now includes practical guidance for instructing key forestry activities such as:

- **Chainsaw use**
- **Tree falling**
- **Equipment operation**
- **Driving on resource roads**

It also aligns with the Resource Road Train-the-Trainer and Qualified Faller Trainer programs, making it an invaluable resource for anyone involved in those training initiatives.

Who should enroll?

- Anyone involved in training forestry workers within their operations.
- Supervisors who plan to use BCFSC's Worker Assessments to help train and assess their workers on-the-job with resources for the following roles:
 - » Basic Forest Worker
 - » Light Truck Driver
 - » Yarding
 - » Mechanized Harvesting
 - » Road Building
 - » Silviculture
 - » Marine
- Individuals aiming to advance into a trainer role within their forestry operation
- Participants enrolled in the BCFSC Resource Road Train-the-Trainer course or Qualified Faller Trainer program



Check out the latest updates and take the next step toward safer, more effective training in forestry. 🌲

Safety Matters More Than Ever in Uncertain Times

Submitted by: Richard King, Director Programs and Training BC Forest Safety Council

In times of economic uncertainty, maintaining a strong commitment to safety is essential. Curtailments, temporary shutdowns and reduced crew sizes can place added pressure on operations, making it even more important to ensure workers stay focused, informed and protected. Prioritizing safety when challenges arise helps safeguard workers, prevents incidents and supports stable operations.

Uncertainty can affect how people work. Concerns about job security, financial pressure and changing operational demands can make it harder for workers to concentrate on the tasks at hand. Reinforcing safe work practices and maintaining clear expectations helps crews stay grounded when external pressures rise.

Operational changes can also introduce new risks. Smaller crews, adjusted roles or added responsibilities may require workers to take on tasks outside their usual scope. Without proper preparation, these shifts can affect both personal safety and the safety of the entire team. Ensuring workers have the right knowledge, guidance and support is critical to managing these risks effectively.

While safety is a broad and shared responsibility, training plays an important role in helping workers and supervisors stay sharp and confident. The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) offers a wide range of training options to strengthen safety skills and support safer workplaces. Many courses and resources are available at no cost, including several online programs and on-the-job assessment tools, making it easier for individuals and employers to continue developing safety competencies during tight financial times.

Some highlights: Our new, online [Trainer Course](#) helps supervisors learn how to train their workers effectively on the job and support consistent practices across crews. BCFSC also offers in-person courses such as [Basics of Incident Investigation](#) and [Joint Health and Safety Committee](#) training to support organizations improve their safety programs, build stronger systems, and reinforce positive safety cultures.

Even when the industry is faced with challenges, safety cannot take a back seat. Investing in safe work practices and ensuring workers have the skills and support they need sends a clear message that safety remains a top priority.

To learn more or explore available training opportunities, visit the training section on the [BCFSC website](#). If you have any questions or ideas about our options, feel free to contact our team at training@bcforestsafe.org. 🌱





BC Forest Safety Training Solutions

BCFSC Training Options for You and Your Team

Empower your workforce with trusted training from the BC Forest Safety Council. Whether you're looking to build skills, stay compliant or enhance safety culture ... BCFSC has you covered.

We Offer:



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Plan ahead with our 2026 Course Schedule.



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Can't make it to an in-person session? We can come to you. Email us at training@bcforestsafe.org or call 1.877.741.1060



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