



SAFETY ALERT

OF THE MONTH

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Effective Worker Assessments

AOM: 2026-03-23

One-on-one worker assessments are an important but often overlooked part of an effective safety program. Supervisors typically assess the worksite and crew as a whole, but this approach may miss individual gaps in knowledge, skills or attributes. Each worker is different and individual assessments help ensure they are capable of performing their job safely.

Spending time one-on-one with workers and using a structured assessment process allows supervisors to identify training or coaching needs early. The following tips can help you build an effective worker assessment program.

Tips for an Effective Assessment

Get worker buy-in. Explain the purpose of the assessment and emphasize that the goal is to improve health and safety. Make sure workers understand the process and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Choose the right time and place. Assessments should not be rushed and may be completed over multiple sessions. They are most effective when workers can be observed performing tasks in different conditions. Employers should allow supervisors sufficient time to complete assessments properly.

Focus on high-risk work first. Prioritize new or young workers and higher-risk tasks such as steep-slope operations or remote work. Identify gaps and develop a training plan. Assign a coach or mentor to support ongoing skill development.

Use checklists or standardized forms to guide assessments. Retain completed assessments as evidence of due diligence. [Assessment forms for many forestry jobs are available including Basic Forest Worker, Light Truck Driver, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting, Road Building, Silviculture, Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor and Marine.](#)

Provide support. Assessments are typically completed by supervisors who know their workers well. [Additional guidance and resources are available through the BC Forest Safety Council](#), including a new free online Assessor course launching later in 2026.





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BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[New Course – Blasting Techniques](#) - This free online course is one of three included in the Forestry Blasting Program, it provides a comprehensive overview of safe and effective blasting practices. 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.

[Connection to Care Mental Health Program](#) - The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is proud to announce the launch of Connection to Care, a free, confidential mental health support service designed to help forestry workers across British Columbia.

[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:

April 7 - 10 | [Falling Supervisor – Prince George](#)

Participants will learn the roles and responsibilities of a falling supervisor and will become familiar with processes used by a falling supervisor to support their due diligence.

April 8 - 9 | [Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Campbell River](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

April 10 | [Basics of Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

April 14 - 17 | [Falling Supervisor – Nelson](#)

Participants will learn the roles and responsibilities of a falling supervisor and will become familiar with processes used by a falling supervisor to support their due diligence.

April 15 - 16 | [Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Kamloops](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

April 17 | [Basics of Incident Investigation – Kamloops](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

April 22 - 23 | [Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Prince George](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

April 24 | [Basics of Incident Investigation – Prince George](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

May 6 - 7 | [Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Golden](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

May 8 | [Basics of Incident Investigation – Golden](#)

This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

Prepared by Gerard Messier RPF, CRSP