IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BC FOREST WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS

SAFETY ALERT
OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

Spot the Signs Before an Incident Happens

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When we review serious incidents, it's often clear that the warning signs were there, we just didn't act on them in time. These signs can include a string of minor incidents or near misses, increasing errors, rising fatigue or distractions that prevented workers from performing at their best.

Supervisors should watch for these warning signs and talk openly about them with their crews. Make it clear: **these signs are not harmless trends … but are potentially early signals of something bigger.** By recognizing and addressing them early, you can prevent serious incidents from occurring in the future.

Top 10 Warning Signs to Watch For

1. Fatigue
Fatigue impairs judgment, slows reaction time and increases risk of injury. It's not just about lack of sleep; prolonged physical or mental effort can be just as draining. Excessive yawning, dozing off during breaks and other signs of fatigue should be investigated to ensure workers are fit for duty.

2. Inconsistent Practices
Workers bring different backgrounds and habits to the job which can result in inconsistent work practices. Without strong supervision and training, unsafe work habits and inconsistent use of safety procedures can occur.

3. Repeated Close Calls
Near misses are not "just part of the job." Patterns of repeat close calls are valuable warnings that can be used to improve safety programs and prevent more serious and costly incidents.

4. Upset or Emergency Conditions
When something is out of the ordinary, risk increases. New worksites, shift changes, workers dealing with an emergency, or changes in tools or processes are all examples of upset conditions. The confusion and distraction caused by these situations often contribute directly to incidents. Have workers slow down and focus on tasks during these situations.

5. Time or Production Pressure
Meeting deadlines and targets is important, but they should never be at the expense of safety. Pressure to meet targets can lead to shortcuts or rushing. For example, pushing equipment beyond safe limits, working through breaks, or not using safety equipment.

6. Lack of Consistent Supervision
Frequent changes in supervisors, or conflicting directions, can create confusion and lead to unsafe practices. Support improved communication across shifts and supervisors to ensure that this isn't a factor.

7. Returning After a Break
Whether it's after lunch or returning from a few days off, coming back to work after a break can disrupt

focus. Workers may forget key steps or lose the rhythm needed to perform safely. Pause and confirm that the hazards are being controlled before jumping back into the job.

8. Skipping Checks or Making Assumptions
Double-checks exist for a reason. Skipping verification steps, like testing a lockout, signals increased risk and potential failure points.

9. Using the Wrong Tool for the Job
Improvising with incorrect tools or equipment can lead to sudden failure and serious injury. If it's not right, STOP and get the correct tool.

10. When Doing the Right Thing Feels Difficult
If safe procedures feel hard to follow, this may be a sign that the system needs improvement. Remove these barriers so it's easier to do the job safely every time.

Take Action

Don't wait for an incident to confirm what the warning signs already told you. **Speak up. Slow down. Fix the problem early.**

Safety isn't just about reacting; it's about recognizing the signals and acting before something goes wrong.

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

Updated Course - Trainer - This free online course will help prepare you to deliver both on-the-job and classroom-based training for forest industry workers. It covers key topics such as developing effective lesson plans, applying best practices in training delivery, managing logistics, and addressing common challenges faced by trainers in the forestry sector.

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.

SAFETY ALERT OF THE MONTH

BCFSC Training:

Oct 5 - 8 | 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.

Oct 21 - 22 | Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Nelson
This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

Oct 23 | Basics of Incident Investigation – Nelson
This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

Oct 29 - 30 | 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.

Nov 3 - 6 | Falling Supervisor – Campbell River
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.

Nov 5 - 6 | 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.

Nov 16 - 17 | Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors - Nelson
This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Nov 18 - 19 | Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors – Prince George
This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Nov 20 | Basics of Incident Investigation – Prince George
This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

Nov 25 - 26 | Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors – Kamloops
This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Nov 27 | Basics of Incident Investigation - Kamloops
This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

Dec 2 - 3 | Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors – Campbell River
This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Dec 4 | Basics of Incident Investigation – Campbell River
This course provides a basic understanding of the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation.

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