BC **Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

EVERY FORESTRY WORKER

GOES HOME SAFE - EVERY DAY

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The 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

The past year has been challenging for BC forestry in ways that go beyond safety. Economic uncertainty, workforce pressures and changing operating conditions continued to impact the sector. But through it all, industry kept what matters most at the forefront: keeping workers safe.

Throughout 2025, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) worked on initiatives that support both worker safety and wellbeing. One important step was the decision to implement Connection to Care, a program that provides confidential and accessible mental health support to forestry workers.

Innovation also played a big role in our work. Industry partners continued testing new automated log load securement technologies to help reduce MSIs for log truck drivers. We also remained focussed on resource road safety, steep slope harvesting and machine rollover prevention. These projects are helping us find new ways to reduce risk in some of forestry's most challenging work environments.

Despite the difficult economic conditions facing the forestry sector, participation in BCFSC training increased throughout the year. This demonstrated industry's ongoing determination to protect workers and invest in safety, even during challenging times. In particular, supervisor training saw strong participation, highlighting the important role frontline leaders have in building strong safety cultures. We also developed new training resources and made improvements to existing training programs in silviculture, harvesting and log hauling.

BCFSC remains dedicated to making high-quality training accessible to forestry employers and workers across the province, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills needed to work safely.

Strong progress was also made in advancing safety in wood products manufacturing operations with initiatives that focussed on critical risk management, combustible dust and process safety. These efforts are helping sawmills and wood pellet manufacturers strengthen controls around some of their highest-risk activities.

Perhaps most encouraging was the high level of engagement seen from industry. More than 2,700 companies maintained SAFE Companies certification, demonstrating that safety remains a core value despite ongoing challenges. And the strong turn-out at the Interior Safety Conference and Vancouver Island Safety Conference further shows the dedication that exists throughout our sector.

At the end of 2025, Rob Moonen, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the BC Forest Safety Council, announced his retirement after 15 years of dedicated service, including the past 10 years as CEO. On behalf of the Board and staff, we extend our sincere gratitude to Rob for his guidance and tireless efforts to advance safety in forestry. Throughout his tenure, he provided steady, thoughtful leadership and his lasting impact on the organization and the industry will be felt for years to come. We wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

As we look ahead to 2026, we welcome Cherie Whelan as the new CEO. Cherie returns after previously serving as BCFSC's Director of SAFE Companies and most recently as the CEO for the Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Safety Association. She brings extensive industry knowledge and a deep commitment to workplace safety. Under her leadership, BCFSC will continue our work with industry partners to develop solutions to help make forestry workplaces safer across BC.

Thank you to everyone who works diligently to advance safety in our industry, including BCFSC staff, our Board of Directors, contractors, trainers, volunteers and industry partners. Together, we are making a difference and remain committed to ensuring that every forestry worker goes home safe. Every day.

D'Arcy Henderson
Board Chair,
BC Forest Safety Council

Cherie Whelan
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 2025 Strategic Objectives

2025 marked the final year of BCFSC's three-year 2023-2025 strategic plan. Over the past three years the plan focused on reducing fatalities and serious injuries through cultural change, workforce development and safety improvements in British Columbia's forestry sector.

In 2025, particular attention was given to the highest-risk forestry activities, those most frequently associated with workplace injuries and fatalities. These included manual tree falling, log transportation, tree planting, equipment operation and wood products manufacturing.

The following summarizes BCFSC's progress in achieving its strategic objectives through work plan initiatives in four key areas.

1. Promoting a Strong Safety Culture

Communicate Safety Initiatives

BCFSC kept industry informed through a range of communication channels, including BCFSC's quarterly *Forest Safety Newsletter* (FSN), published in March, June, September and December. Distributed to 6,245 subscribers, the newsletter provides targeted safety information on harvesting, falling, transportation, wood products manufacturing as well as updates to BCFSC's training initiatives.

Additional outreach was conducted through social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube, as well as communications distributed by industry partners such as the Truck Loggers Association (TLA), Interior Logging Association (ILA) and WorkSafeBC. Key initiatives were also promoted through media communications and industry-specific publications such as *Canadian Biomass* magazine, *Logging and Sawmill Journal, Truck Loggers Magazine* and more.

BCFSC's safety alerts and bulletins provide key insights to assist with safety planning and update subscribers about the latest BCFSC information.

Industry Engagement and Awareness

BCFSC leveraged its network of advisory committees and industry partners to share and distribute industry updates and alerts and BCFSC safety initiatives. These efforts encouraged the adoption of safety programs and promoted learning from incident shares to support injury prevention efforts and continuous safety improvement.

2. Developing a Competent and Confident Workforce

Advancing Training and Competency

Training programs were regularly reviewed and updated to remain accessible, inclusive and responsive to evolving industry requirements. Course content was revised to reflect changes to regulations and industry processes, and to support a knowledgeable and capable workforce.

Strategic Objectives

Expanding Access to Training

BCFSC increased access to learning opportunities through a combination of online, in-person and requested training programs. Enhanced blended learning options were designed to support both new and experienced workers.

In 2025, BCFSC focussed effort on improving the accessibility of online courses on multiple types of devices, including mobile devices. Training was also delivered directly to workers through scheduled in-person sessions and customized programs provided at company locations to meet their operational requirements.

3. Supporting Effective Safety and Injury Management Systems

Supporting Indigenous Participation

Collaboration with Indigenous forestry organizations focused on adapting programs to specific needs and expanding access to training through customized delivery.

Encouraging Innovation and Technology

Working closely with industry advisory groups, BCFSC identified and supported emerging technologies aimed at reducing injury risk and strengthening operational safety systems. Key initiatives included enhancements to the FIRS app and audit submission tools and the development of a series of safety awareness videos on emergency response, musculoskeletal injury prevention, off-road vehicle safety and emergency extraction.

Strengthening In-Field Support

BCFSC's safety advisors from SAFE Companies, Falling and Manufacturing conducted 778 visits to locations throughout the province. These site visits provided forestry and wood products manufacturing companies with guidance on safety management system best practices, support in adapting to regulatory changes and practical recommendations to improve workplace safety.

These advisory services remain available to industry at no cost and continue to represent one of BCFSC's most valued contributions to the sector.

4. Advancing a Safety-Focused Regulatory Framework

Regulatory Collaboration and Best Practices

BCFSC worked closely with regulators and industry representatives to support the implementation of safe work practices aligned with occupational health and safety requirements. This work focused particularly on changes to First Aid and Combustible Dust regulations. Insights gained through these collaborations were used to develop practical, adaptable safety procedures, that were shared throughout the sector.

In addition, BCFSC provided guidance to help employers understand compliance obligations and adapt safety management systems to reflect their operational needs, workforce size and classification unit.

These strategic objectives reflect BCFSC's commitment to continuous improvement, meaningful industry collaboration and practical safety leadership. By aligning with emerging risks, encouraging innovation and supporting a diverse workforce, BCFSC is contributing to a safer and more resilient forestry sector throughout British Columbia.

3 2025 BCFSC Highlights

778
BCFSC SAFETY ADVISOR FIELD VISITS

4,412
SELF-DIRECTED ONLINE COURSE COMPLETIONS

974
IN-PERSON TRAINING COMPLETIONS

116
VIRTUAL-INSTRUCTOR LED TRAINING COMPLETIONS

Connection to Care

In Q4 2025, the Connection to Care program was approved for launch in January 2026. The program is a free and confidential mental health support call-in service that provides access to professional mental health support, resources, and guidance for BC forestry workers.

In partnership with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors, the service will connect callers with qualified mental health professionals, including Registered Clinical Counsellors and graduate-level practicum students working under professional supervision. Support will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

The approval of Connection to Care represents an important step in reducing barriers to mental health support and improving access to confidential, professional assistance when it is needed most.

FIRS App – Forest Industry Reporting System

In 2025, the FIRS (Forest Industry Reporting System) App was enhanced with an incident reporting tool called EIDA. This tool helps create more complete and detailed incident reports using an interactive analysis process that prompts additional questions to create comprehensive incident reports.

A desktop version of the FIRS Dashboard was introduced to work in conjunction with the FIRS App to provide easy access to downloadable reports and records from information submitted through mobile devices.

The FIRS App continued to gain traction in 2025. The number of companies registered for the app increased from 284 in 2024 to 558 in 2025, a 97% jump, showing that more organizations are recognizing the value of the platform. At the same time, registered users grew from 1,273 to 1,954, representing a 54% year-over-year increase.

FIRS App Usage

2025 BCFSC Highlights

Social Media Presence

Throughout 2025, 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 mobile 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.

2025 vs. 2024 Statistics

	2024 vs 2025	
LinkedIn	600 vs 679	Increase of 13% followers
Facebook	1,529 vs 1,704	Increase of 12% followers
Instagram	1,132 vs 1,268	Increase of 12% followers
YouTube subscribers	1,728 vs 1,891	Increase of 10%
YouTube Total views	62,753 vs 73,348	Increase of 17%

YouTube:
BCFSC added
14
videos to our YouTube Channel in 2025

2025 BCFSC Highlights

Safety Conferences

In 2025, BCFSC continued to host our free, in-person safety conferences in Kamloops and Nanaimo. These annual events are a vital forum where frontline workers, management and owner/operators come together to learn, collaborate, share insights, voice concerns and strengthen their collective commitment to building a culture of safety—ensuring every worker gets home safe - every day.

2025 Interior Safety Conference

120 forestry professionals attended the 2025 Interior Safety Conference in Kamloops on Thursday, May 1, 2025. The conference focused “Building Safety Through Shared Experiences” and highlighted strengthening safety culture through shared learning, mental health awareness and worker well-being.

Speakers addressed important topics sharing personal stories about substance use awareness, mental health, harm reduction and overcoming adversity while supporting others in the workplace. The speakers for the day were:

- Marla Guldbransen (BC Forest Safety Council) and Nicole Arkle (Gorman Group) who explored how diversity, equity and inclusion strengthen workforce development, foster innovation and contribute to safer and more resilient workplaces.
- Jeremy Gauthier shared his experience of recovery following a serious workplace injury and addiction, emphasizing resilience, self-care and the importance of small, consistent actions to create positive change.
- Jennifer Irwin (WorkSafeBC) discussed Psychological Health and Safety and outlined how employers can support mental well-being through workplace mental health programs and psychologically safe work environments.
- Forrest Weadock (Gorman Bros. Lumber) showcased innovative safety controls, technologies and worksite practices used to reduce vehicle and pedestrian risks in busy industrial worksites.
- Mark Black shared his journey of overcoming life-threatening health challenges and presented practical strategies for building resilience, adapting to adversity and achieving meaningful goals.
- Greg Hemminger and Mika Dumont (Tailgate Toolkit Project) discussed substance use, harm reduction and mental health support, using personal experiences to highlight the importance of reducing stigma and creating supportive workplaces where workers feel safe seeking help.

2025 BCFSC Highlights

2025 Vancouver Island Safety Conference

The 18th Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference was held in Nanaimo on November 1, 2025, bringing together 300 forestry professionals from across BC. The conference theme, “Facing the Future Together: The Human Side of Safety,” focused on the role of leadership, mental health, inclusion and creating safer workplaces by improving safety practices in the forestry sector.

The day’s speakers included:

- Steve Howe who shared his personal experience surviving a catastrophic logging accident, emphasizing the human impact of workplace injuries and the importance of making safety-driven decisions.
- Sylvia Marusyk explored the connection between mental health and workplace safety, providing practical strategies for managing stress, building resilience and creating healthier work environments.
- Justin Brien spoke candidly about his journey through depression, addiction and recovery, highlighting the importance of seeking support, finding purpose and prioritizing mental well-being.
- Chief Councillor John Jack (Huu-ay-aht First Nations) discussed the integration of Indigenous values, including respect, interconnectedness and care for future generations, into workplace safety and business practices.
- D’Arcy Henderson from Mosaic Forest Management encouraged organizations to move beyond compliance and foster proactive safety cultures where safety is a shared value at all levels.
- Elise Kobylanski and Colleen Skinner from WorkSafeBC provided guidance on return-to-work obligations, emphasizing early communication, collaboration and worker support.
- Marla Guldbransen (BC Forest Safety Council) and Nicole Arkle (Gorman Group) highlighted how diversity, equity and inclusion strengthen workforce development, improve safety outcomes and support a more resilient forestry sector.

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 BC’s forestry sector.

In 2025, three exceptional leaders were honored:

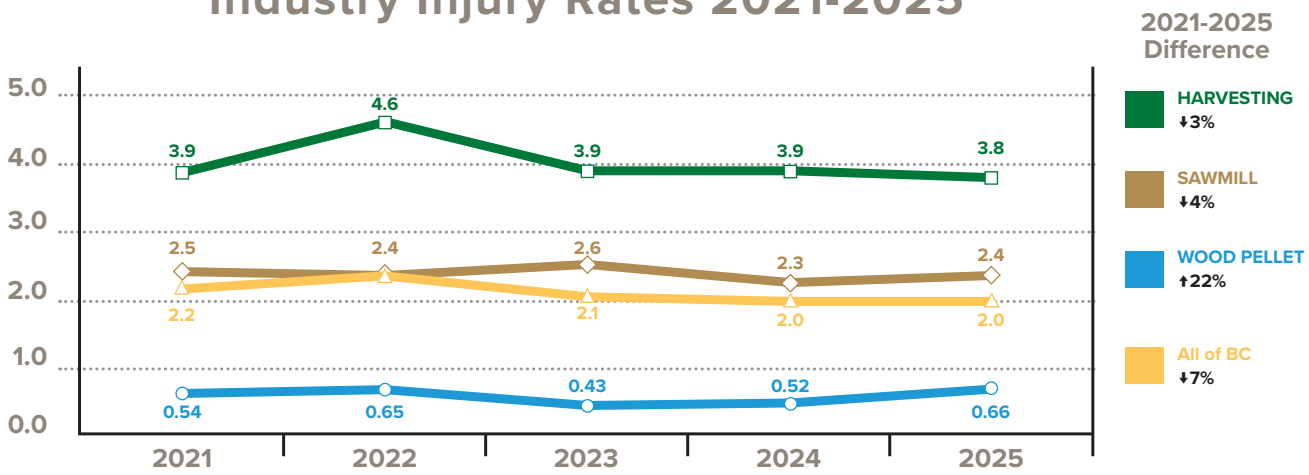
- Bjarne Nielsen – Bear Safety Services Ltd. received the *Cary White Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award* for his unwavering commitment to help prevent workplace accidents, mentor others and build a culture of safety that’s grounded in respect and collaboration.
- *Forest Safety MVP Award* winner Dale Jones – Operations Superintendent, Tolko Industries Ltd – Heffley Creek was recognised for more than 30 years of leadership in forest safety.
- Shane Norbury – Red Seal Millwright, Western Forest Products – Chemainus Sawmill Division was honoured with the *MVP Award for Wood Products Manufacturing* for spearheading safety initiatives and his hands-on approach to building a strong safety culture.

These awards highlight the contributions of individuals who are making a lasting impact advancing safety in the forestry industry.

4 Industry Statistics and Trends

Time-loss and serious injuries in harvesting, sawmill and wood pellets sectors showed mixed results in 2025. The harvesting sector remained relatively stable, reporting an injury rate of 3.8 compared to 3.9 in 2024. In contrast, sawmills and wood pellets experienced modest increases, with injury rates rising by 0.1 and 0.2 respectively. Despite these sector-specific changes, the provincial average injury rate remained steady at 2.

Industry Injury Rates 2021-2025

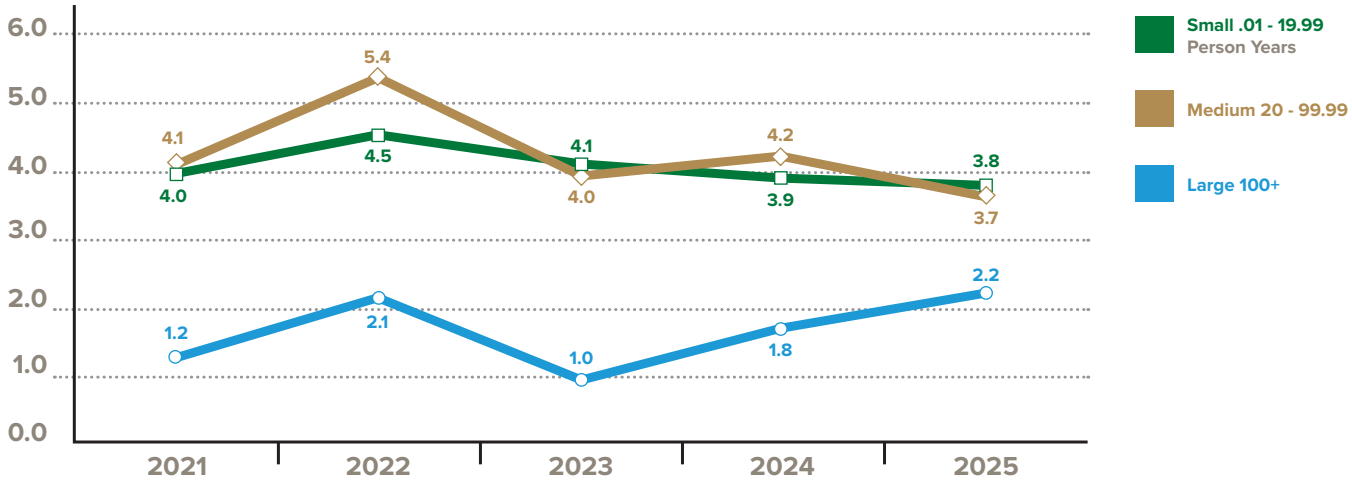


Access is currently being established and initially will be limited to staff who require it for their work. Additional information and processes will be shared once the reports and access requirements have been reviewed.

Changes to Injury Rates over the past 5 years

Industry Statistics and Trends

Harvesting Injury Rates 2021 - 2025 by Employer Size



BCFSC Safety Advisors completed

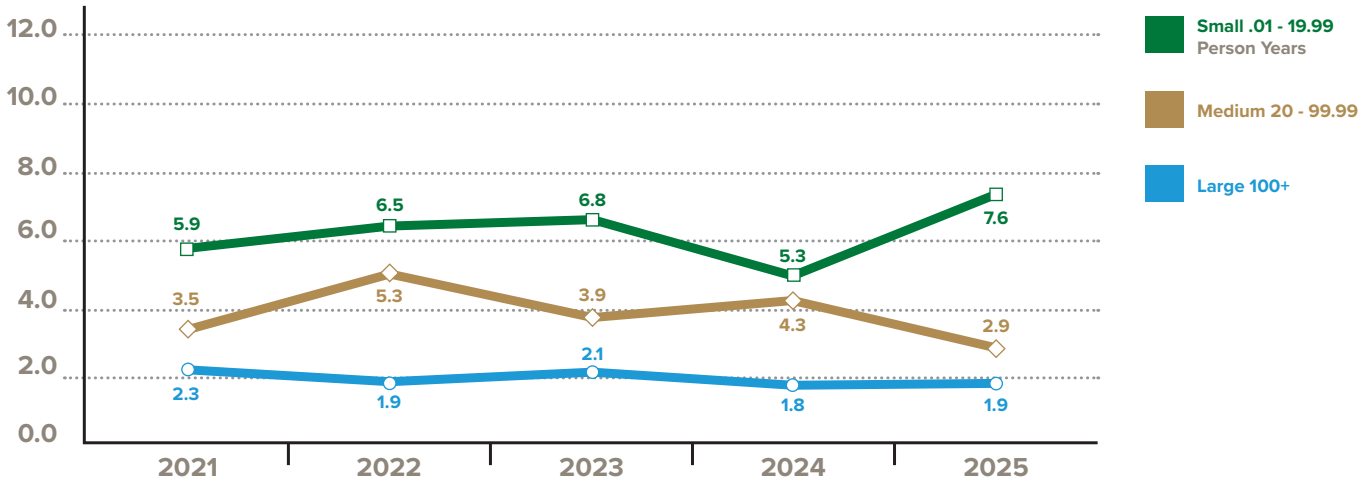
778

in-field visits

These injury rates demonstrate the continued need for BCFSC to support small and medium-sized employers, as these operations face greater challenges in reducing workplace injuries. In harvesting, injury rates improved slightly among both small and medium-sized employers, decreasing to 3.8 and 3.7 respectively. However, large employers reported a rate of 2.2, remaining substantially lower than those of smaller operations.

Industry Statistics and Trends

Sawmill Injury Rates 2021 - 2025 by Employer Size



Results within the sawmill sector showed both improvements and challenges across employer size. Small employers experienced a significant increase in injury rates, reaching 7.6 in 2025. This rate was four times higher than large employers, who recorded a rate of 1.9. By comparison, medium-sized employers showed improvement. with their injury rate decreasing from 4.3 in 2024 to 2.9 in 2025.

These results highlight the ongoing need for targeted safety programs and resources, particularly for smaller sawmill operations where injury rates remain disproportionately high.

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, 2025)

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, 2025):

Rob Schweitzer, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), BC Wildfire – 0.5 year

Peter Lister, Executive Director, Truck Loggers Association (TLA) – 1 year

John Betts, Executive Director, Western Forestry Contractors' Association – 22 years

Jeff Bromley, Wood Council chairperson, Local 1-1937, United Steelworkers – 5.5 years

Mark Cookson, Operations Manager BC Woodlands, West Fraser – 2 years

Reid Hedlund, Mid Boundary Contracting Ltd. – 19 years

D'Arcy Henderson, Sr. Vice President, Timberlands and Chief Operating Officer, Mosaic Forest Management – 5 years

Lana Kurz, Director, Safety & Risk, Interfor, Canadian Operations – 5.5 years

Ross Lennox, Vice President, Woodlands Canada, Canadian Forest Products – 3 years

Gordon Murray, Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada – 3 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 (NWLA)
8. United Steelworkers–IWA Council (USWA – IWA)
9. Truck Loggers Association (TLA)
10. Western Forestry Contractors' Association (WFCA)
11. Weyerhaeuser Company Limited (WCL)
12. Van Isle Falling LTD.
13. I. Crosby Contracting Ltd.
14. Independent Wood Processors Association (IWPA)
15. Interfor Corporation (INTERFOR)
16. Mosaic Forest Management
17. Brinkman & Associates Reforestation Ltd.
18. Apex Forest & Wildfire Services Ltd.
19. Sladey Timber Ltd.
20. Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Forest Management Group (Canfor)
21. Akehurst and Galvani Reforestation Ltd.
22. Western Forest Products (WFP)
23. Zanzibar Holdings Ltd.
24. Wright Canada Holding Ltd.
25. Greenpeaks Resource Management Ltd.
26. Joe Dowe Enterprises Ltd.
27. Folklore Contracting Ltd.
28. Summit Reforestation & Forest Management Ltd.
29. Namgis First Nation & Atli Resources Corporation
30. Boom Bay Contracting
31. C.A.S. Forest Care Ltd.
32. Cecil Hill Contracting Ltd.
33. Copcan Contracting Ltd.
34. Daniel Boyd Fretts dba Windfall Enterprises
35. Frost Lake Logging Ltd.
36. TDB Consultants Inc.
37. Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
38. West Fraser Mills Ltd.
39. Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd.
40. Blue Thunder Contracting Ltd.
41. Smokey River Holdings Ltd.
42. Hytest Timber Ltd.
43. Newco Logging Ltd.
44. Superior Selfloading Ltd.
45. Trevor Bennett Trucking Ltd.
46. Strategic Natural Resources Consultants Inc.
47. M.S.M. Falling L.T.D.
48. Sibola Mountain Falling Ltd.
49. Slew Foot Logging Ltd.
50. Western Canadian Timber Products Ltd.
51. Wood Pellet Association of Canada
52. Wilson Bros. Enterprises Ltd.
53. 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 2025 Summary of Activities

SAFE Companies

In 2025, SAFE Companies continued to focus on SAFE Companies certification and COR certification programs to ensure they were current, accessible and effective. Through in-person site visits, audit services and enhancements to the FIRS App, audit submission tools and training, SAFE Companies continued to support employers in developing, implementing and maintaining strong safety management systems.

Key Activities

Improved training delivery and user experience

- Updated course design for Small Employer OHS and Individual Owner Operator online training to improve user experience and update content, imagery and videos.
- SAFE Companies initial and recertification training was reviewed and updated to align with changes in regulations, such as First Aid, and emergency drills.
- Enhanced training materials for mobile accessibility and online delivery, improving ease of use for employers and auditors.

Modernization of resources

- The SAFE Companies team worked with WorkSafeBC and the SAFE Companies Advisory Committee (SCAC) to develop and test a new BASE audit tool called EMAP (Enhanced Maintenance Audit Protocol) to help improve safety management systems and increase safety performance for qualifying companies of 20 or more workers.

Quality assurance

- SAFE Companies continued to evaluate and enhance audit documents to reflect changes in OHS regulations (such as First Aid) and employer responsibilities.

SAFE Companies Training	2025
Small Employer Occupational Health & Safety (SEOHS) Initial Training	231
Individual Owner Operator (IOO) Initial Training	36
Small Employer Occupational Health & Safety (SEOHS) refresher	313
Individual Owner Operator (IOO) Refresher Training	72
Internal Auditor (Large) provided	20
External Auditor (Large) provided	1

SAFE Companies Audits and Certifications	2025
New registrations	230
New certifications	251
Verification Audits	391
WorkSafeBC Initiated Verification Audits	41

CAT
STIHL

Summary of Activities

Falling

Strategic Focus: In 2025, BCFSC's Falling Department focussed on increasing awareness, strengthening consistency, and maintaining competency in falling practices and falling supervision across the province.

2025 Key Activities

- The Falling Department continued to work with the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) to develop and advance safe work procedures for backbarring.
- Efforts continued to improve emergency response planning, with a particular focus on incidents in remote locations requiring helicopter extraction.
- The department engaged with fallers and industry advisory groups to identify opportunities to support mental health and wellness within the falling community.
- Prime contractor responsibilities remained a key focus area to ensure designated individuals understand their roles and responsibilities and demonstrate the required competency.
- The department continued to strengthen the competence and confidence of falling supervisors by providing practical field-based resources, mentorship and support, and promoting consistent supervision practices across British Columbia.

Certification and Assessment Improvements

- Commenced work to transition the Certified Falling Supervisor (CFS) program to a competency-based assessment model with an increased emphasis on:
  - » Knowledge and application of the BC Faller Training Standard
  - » Understanding supervisory roles, responsibilities, and expectations
  - » Demonstrated competency in effective falling supervision practices

Summary of Activities

Falling

Injury Rates 2021-2025

Serious Injury Rates 2021-2025

Falling Department Summary of 2025 Activities	
Faller Certification Challenge Assessments	4
New Faller Training Assessments	8
Falling Supervisor Certifications	2
Quality Assurance Visits (180-day)	23
Quality Assurance - Trainers	15
Company Reviews	14
Falling Advocate Engagements	334

Summary of Activities

Transportation and Northern Safety

Strategic Focus: In 2025, BCFSC continued to prioritize initiatives aimed at reducing risk in forestry transportation and operational activities, with a focus on log hauling, vehicle operation, timber harvesting, emergency evacuation planning and preparedness, and emergency service response planning and capabilities.

Key Activities

Professional Industry Driver Training

- Continued to support competency-based training and assessment programs to ensure drivers hauling logs and wood fibre understand and assess risk to improve safety performance.

Resource Road Driver Training (RRDT)

- Worked to design and support the delivery of customized forestry-specific Resource Road Driver training to help improve worker competency and reduce operational risks associated with field-based operations.
- Implemented moderator session, quality assurance and Train-the-Trainer programs for RRDT.

ORV/ATV Training

- Worked to design and support the delivery of customized forestry-specific ORV/ATV training to help improve worker competency and reduce operational risks associated with field-based operations.
- Implemented moderator session and quality assurance for ORV/ ATV training.

Technology & Innovation (Log Load Securement)

- Researched and piloted automated load securement technologies adapted for BC log hauling in collaboration with FPInnovations, including:
  - » ExTe's Com 90 system developed in Sweden
  - » Trinder's WASP system developed in New Zealand
- Conducted operational trials and applied testing to generate evaluation reports for industry consideration.

Emergency Response Planning

- Video development focussing on Steep Slope Extraction Drills and Emergency Response Preparation
- Facilitated heli-extraction training and demonstration sessions that provided attendees with practical experience in preparing injured workers for helicopter extraction, understanding emergency response capabilities and evacuation readiness.
- Created training resources and foundational workshop content for the Anatomy of a Tip-over (AoT) initiative to help industry understand the contributing factors in equipment tip-overs and to support safe harvesting practices.

Summary of Activities

Transportation and Northern Safety

Transportation and Northern Safety Summary of 2025 Training Activities	
Resource Road Driver Knowledge Unit	1,047
One-Day Resource Road Safety Training	270
Two-Day Resource Road Driver Training	78
Resource Road Driver Train-the-Trainer	1
Off-Road Vehicle Knowledge Unit	125
Off-Road Vehicle Operator Training	16
Off-Road Vehicle Safety Training	69
Professional Industry Driver Online Training	4
Professional Log Truck Driver Endorsement	13

Summary of Activities

Wood Products Manufacturing Safety

Sawmills: In 2025, BC Forest Safety Council continued its commitment to improving safety performance in BC's sawmills by collaborating with industry partners to address key high-risk hazards and strengthen safety practices across the sector. Focus areas included supervisor development, practical operational solutions to support safer operations, mental health and psychological safety initiatives, and compliance with evolving regulatory requirements, particularly with combustible wood dust and first aid, to help prevent serious incidents in sawmill environments.

BCFSC also advanced several important initiatives, including updates to the MAG-SAFE audit system and audit tools to align with new combustible dust regulations. Efforts to strengthen Critical Control Management (CCM) practices further enhanced hazard identification, accountability and understanding of employer and worker responsibilities in managing critical risks.

Combustible Dust Audit & Regulatory Alignment Key Activities

- Updated the MAG-SAFE Audit Combustible Dust High-Risk Module to assess combustible dust risks within operations
- Incorporated amendments to Part 6 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) for managing combustible dust hazards
- Integrated changes into:
  - » Electronic audit tools
  - » Audit dashboards

Critical Control Management (CCM) for Combustible Dust Key Activities

- Conducted workshops with sawmill employers to help improve the understanding of:
  - » Process Safety Management (PSM) principles
  - » Identification and evaluation of critical risks
- Conducted and validated bow-tie analysis findings to identify critical controls in operations for combustible dust hazards
- Integrated regulatory changes into MAG audits with an increased emphasis on critical control and process safety frameworks

Workshops & Training Key Activities

- Delivered various workshops for sawmill employers covering:
  - » Ergonomics and MSI's led by Canadian Certified Professional Ergonomist, Era Poddar
  - » Combustible Dust Specialist Training led by experts from Dust Safety Science
  - » A presentation on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Psychological Safety from Angie Houston and Chris Foucher from Forestry Together
  - » The effectiveness of a Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees hosted by facilitator Brian Campbell from the BC Federation of Labour
  - » Three Combustible Dust | Process Safety Management workshops presented by Kayleigh Rayner Brown, MASc, P.Eng
- Updated online combustible dust training modules to align with WorkSafeBC regulatory updates

Summary of Activities

Wood Products Manufacturing Safety

Wood Pellet Manufacturing: In 2025, BC Forest Safety Council continued its efforts to reduce significant risks in wood pellets manufacturing by advancing safety practices related to rotary drum dryers and combustible wood dust hazards. Combustible dust specialist training from leading experts in combustible dust safety.

Rotary Drum Dryer Safety Key Activities

- Review findings from rotary drum dryer incidents and develop safe operating procedures (SOPs) and guidance documents including a technical report with recommendations for safer operation
- Delivered a series of webinars to share learnings and resources to increase employer awareness of rotary dryer hazards and controls

Combustible Dust & Critical Control Management (CCM) Key Activities

- BCFSC delivered two workshops for wood pellet employers with a focus on improving employer knowledge of regulatory requirements and providing information on how to identify, prioritize, and ensure reliability of critical controls:
  - » Proposed updates to OHSR Part 6 – Combustible Dust Regulations
  - » Application of CCM frameworks to identify and manage critical controls in process safety within pellet operations

Manufacturing Safety Summary of 2025 Activities	
MAG-SAFE Audits Conducted	12 Completed
Crew Talks	47 Distributed
Manufacturing Safety Alerts	51 Distributed
Manufacturing Safety Innovation Shares	1 Shared
MAG Workshop Participation	157 Attendees
Wood Products Manufacturing Online Training:	
Identifying Hazards and Assessing Risk	30
Combustible Dust Training for Workers	84
Combustible Dust Training for Managers & Employers	24
Combustible Dust Training for Contractors	7

Wood Products Manufacturing Supervisor Training:	
Contractor Management	46
Cornerstones of Effective Safety Supervision	56
Due Diligence	48
Effective Communication	38
Hazard Identification, Inspection and Investigation	44
Leadership and Professionalism	38
Orientation, Training and Skills Development	48
Supervisor Training Course Program Completions	39

Summary of Activities

Training

Strategic Focus: In 2025, BCFSC focussed on access of training for workers and continued to support the quality and relevance of resources to support BC's forestry sector.

Key Activities

Development of New Training Resources

- Engaged subject matter experts to identify training gaps in high priority areas and developed targeted training content to address these gaps.
  - » Falling Supervisor: completed final work on the Falling Supervisor program, with online modules supporting knowledge-based learning and in-field components to support skill-based learning.
  - » Forestry Surface Blasting: developed 8.5 hours of online training specific to support safety training and professional development for forestry blasters.

Updated Existing Training Programs

- Updated BCFSC's online Trainer course with new content and improved visuals. This course is aimed at forestry supervisors and trainers and supports them with conducting on-the-job training.
- Provided a new way for employers to access the Basics of Incident Investigation course. BCFSC can now provide an instructor to work with learners live over the internet, instead of having both the instructor and learners need to be in the same location.

Training Delivery & Access Improvements

- Expanded online course availability in BCFSC's Learning Management System (LMS) through improved linkages to BCFSC's website and improved navigation in the LMS.

Summary of Activities

Training

Post Secondary Collaboration

BCFSC continues to support students in forestry programs across the province. BCFSC presents to BCIT forestry students annually on forestry safety and employment opportunities within the industry, helping the students be ready to work safely and effectively in their chosen careers.

Training Department Summary of 2025 Activities	
Total training completions	7,943
BCFSC training completions run through employer systems	2,480
2025 Training Highlights	
Forest Supervisor training completions (all formats)	921
Basic Chainsaw Operator training completions (in-person)	126
Dangerous Tree Awareness training completions (online)	770
Total Resource Road Driver training completions (all formats)	1,396
Total Off Road Vehicle training completions (all formats)	210
Forestry Surface Blasting training completions (online)	116

7 2025 Financials

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) maintained a strong financial position in 2025, ending the year with unrestricted cash reserves of $3.46 million, representing an 18.6% increase ($543,308) over the previous year. The organization reported an operating surplus of $489,436, reflecting continued fiscal responsibility and operational efficiency.

An independent audit of BCFSC's financial statements was conducted by MNP LLP, which issued an unmodified opinion, conveying they present a fair and accurate representation of BCFSC's financial position in all material respects.

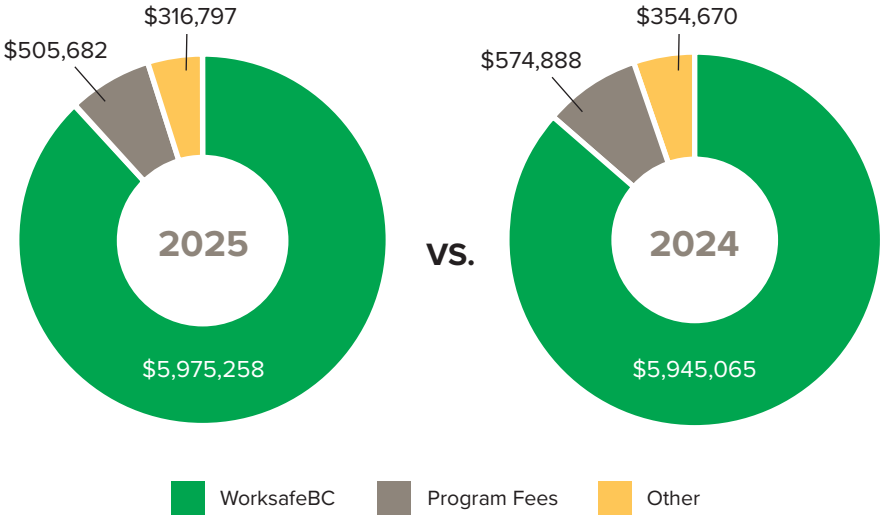
BCFSC Financial Summary – 2025 vs 2024

Unrestricted Cash

2025	$3,461,714
2024	$2,918,406

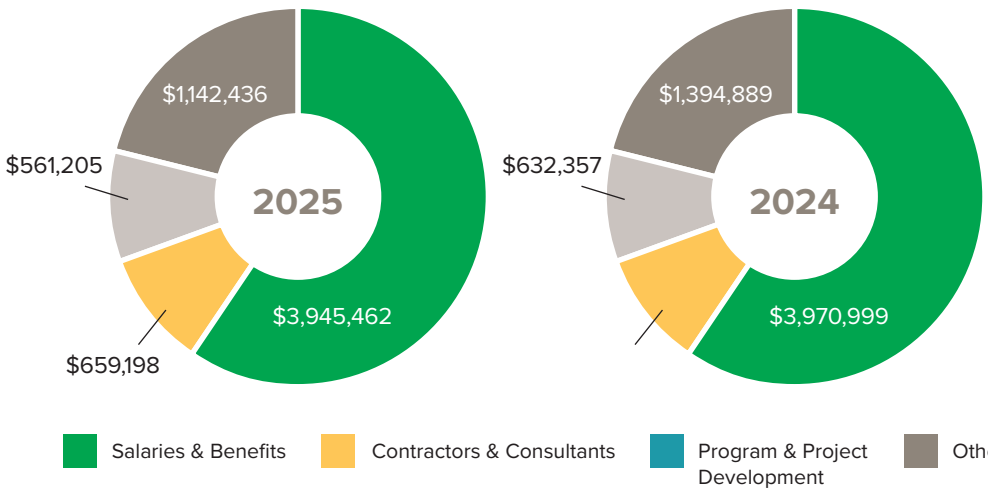
Revenue

2025	2024
$6,797,737	**$6,874,623**
WorksafeBC: $5,975,258	WorksafeBC: $5,945,065
Program Fees: $505,682	Program Fees: $574,888
Other: $316,797	Other: $354,670



Expenses

2025	2024
$6,308,301	**$6,653,002**
Salaries & Benefits: $3,945,462	Salaries & Benefits: $3,970,999
Contractors & Consultants: $659,198	Contractors & Consultants: $654,757
Program & Project Development: $561,205	Program & Project Development: $632,357
Other: $1,142,436	Other: $1,394,889



The 2025 BCFSC audited financial statements are available on the BCFSC website.

8 Industry Advisory Groups

BCFSC's Advisory Groups continued to be instrumental in driving improvements in safety, training, and operational excellence in BC's forestry industry throughout 2025. Their expertise and commitment to workplace safety in harvesting operations, sawmills and wood pellet production helped identify and guide key industry priorities.

Each Advisory Group concentrated on projects that aligned with current industry challenges and regulatory changes, ensuring their efforts were timely, practical and impactful.

Harvesting Groups

Coast Harvesting Advisory Committee (CHAG)

Ann-Marie Baron, Lemare Group
Jason Cox, United Steelworkers
Derek Nelson, Western Forest Products
Mike Reagon, Mosaic Forest Management
Mike Davidson, FTAC
Matt Enns, Meraki Resources
Shawn Mandula, TLA

Top areas of focus:

- Incident data collection and analysis across forest operations.
- Emergency Response Planning and Execution
- 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
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, WorkSafeBC
Tom Pawlowski, WorkSafeBC
Chris Miller, WorkSafeBC
Chris Spronken, BC Wildfire Service
Tashia Olmstead, Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors

Top areas of focus:

- Development of safe work procedures to be added to the BC Faller Training Standard
- Development of Tailgate Safety Talks for Falling Supervisors
- Prime Contractor Qualifications and Planning & Conducting

Advisory Groups **cont...**

BC Safe Forestry Program - Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)

Brian Beaudry, Brinkman Reforestation
John Betts, Western Forestry Contractors' Association
Simon Hall, Spectrum Resource Group
Tammy Laidlaw, Blue Collar Group
Robin McCullough, Brinkman Reforestation
Dr. Jordan Tesluk, Forest Safety Advocate
Crawford Young, Silvarado Silviculture Ltd.
Ryan Zapisocki, Windfirm Resources
Craig Moore, Rider Ventures
Sally Asu, BC Timber Sales
Trish Kohorst, Strategic Natural Resource Consultants
Janine Perley, Next Generation Reforestation
Richard King, BCFSC

Observers:
Tom Pawlowski, WorkSafeBC

Top areas of focus:

- Review of work fitness, both physical and mental
- Chainsaw training beyond basic chainsaw operator: e.g. brushing, slashing, falling up to 6 inches
- Duties and liabilities with a "captive workforce" on days off, private vehicle use, camp recreation, etc.

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:

- WL-CFA licensee safety responsibilities/awareness
- Weather events and safety
- 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

SAFE Companies Advisory Committee (SCAC)

Ann Marie Baron, Lemare Group of Companies
Tanya Lawes, Lawes Forest management
Tanya Radu, Chairperson- Roga Group of companies
Shawn Sullivan, Ministry of Forests
Dr. Jordan Tesluk, Forest Safety Advocate
Craig Tilander, Ministry of Land, Water Resource Stewardship

Observers
Rommel Dela Resma, WorkSafeBC

Top areas of focus:

- SCAC has a new member from MOF Land, Water Resource Stewardship. Still looking for more members, especially from smaller companies.
- SCAC is still waiting for WorkSafeBC's decision on COR and BCFSC's position of monitoring the outcome to determine the impact and future direction.
- The committee granted approval to proceed with the new Enhanced Maintenance Audit Protocol.

Advisory Groups cont...

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 that improve worker safety,
- Development of resources and standards that meet or exceed provincial regulations, and
- Increase awareness, training and engagement by licensees, workers, contractors, and regulators.

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 Weltz, 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

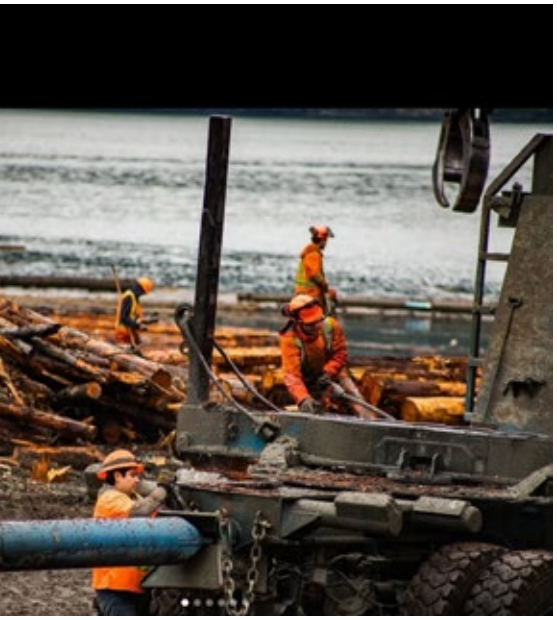
Mark Cookson, West Fraser Mills
Nick Arkle, Gorman Bros Lumber Ltd.
Larry Price, Interfor
John Rowe, Canfor
Marty Hiemstra, Mercer Forestry Services Ltd.
Greg Munden, Munden Advisors
Todd Chamberlain, Interior Logging Association
Andrew McLellan, Conifex
Craig Tilander, BC Timber Sales
Bruce McLean,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

Top areas of focus:

- All forest operations incident data collection and analysis
- Communication and implementation of TAG best practices
- Log Load Securement

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



Advisory Groups cont...

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:

- Log Truck Driver Training and Professional Endorsement
- Professionalism in Log Hauling
- 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:

- Provincial safety data
- Log Truck Inspections
- Electronic stability control/GHG regulations

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 and analysis
- Load securement techniques and technology
- Risk analysis and control

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:

- Incident data collection and analysis
- Injury prevention
- Professional Industry Driver Training and Assessment

Manufacturing Safety Groups

Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG)

John Rowe, Canfor
Sabra Jarman, Canfor
Ian Webb, Weyerhaeuser
Daniel Gunton, Carrier Lumber Ltd.
Tristan Anderson, Coastland
Marla Nicol, Conifex
Tony Mogus, Dunkley
Chris Foucher, Dunkley

Advisory Groups **cont...**

David Murray, Gorman Group
Ian Gray, Hampton Affiliates
Daniel Ruzic, Interfor
Ben Cram, Kalesnikoff
Grant Fast, Sinclar Group
Tim Boyes, Sinclar 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, Bowtie Validations and Critical Control Management
- Wood Dust Testing Final Report Analysis and communication
- Analysis MAG Audit results 2019 to 2025 and provide working groups with recommendations for audit question changes.

Forest Industry Forum - Manufacturing Technical Working Group

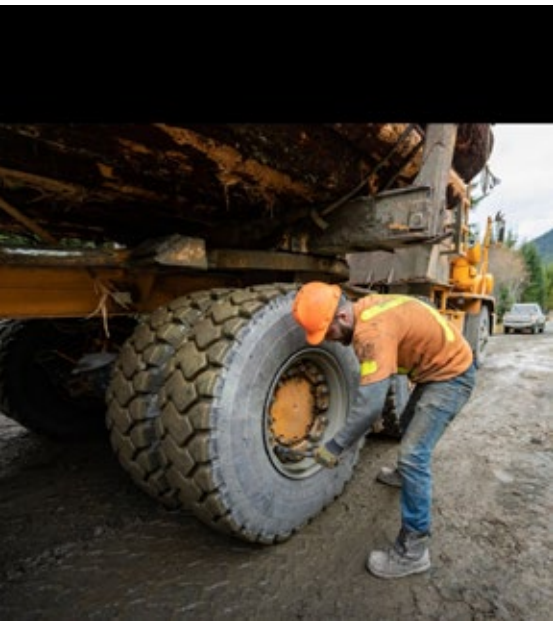
David Murray, Gorman Group
Grant Fast, Sinclar Group
Marla Nicol, Conifex
Lori Saretsky, West Fraser
Scott Wynn, Tolko
Mike Dufour, Western Forest Products
Theressa Klein, Western Forest Products Alternate
John Rowe, Canfor
Sabra Jarman, Canfor Alternate
Frank Wall, Premium Pellets
Jeff Johnston, DRAX
Jason Lennox, Domtar
Jeff Fish, Mercer
Carrier Harilstad, Kruger
Ed Kent, United Steelworkers

Observers:

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

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

Jeremy Armstrong-Waugh Element6 Solutions
William Berg, Premium Pellet Ltd.
Chris Blanchard, Shaw Renewables
Michel Boudreau, Shaw Renewables
Tim Boyes, Sinclar Group
Tammy Carruthers, BCFSC
Keith Culligan, Shaw Renewables
Derke Deverau, Lumberscan
Christoffer Eldskott Lumberscan
Michael Fantillo, Premium Pellet Ltd.
Corey Godin, Shaw Renewables
Kevin Graw, Drax
Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables
Jody Head, Shaw Renewables
Tim Heneks, Dustcon Solutions
Jo-anne Horne Shaw Resources



Advisory Groups **cont...**

Jeff Johnston, Drax
Jay Juvenal, CV Technology
Jason Krbec, CV Technology
Phillipe Landry, Grand River Pellets
Bill Laturnus, BCFSC
Trevor Murdock, BioNorth Energy
Gordon Murray, Wood Pellet Association of Canada
Jeff Mycroft, Fike Canada Inc.
Mark Puglas, Drax
Jennifer Raworth, Wood Pellet Association of Canada
Darrell Robinson, Shaw Renewables
Jon Ross, Drax
Eric Rousselle Groupe Savoie
Daniel Seminuk Prairie Clean Energy
Shahab Sokhansanj, UBC -Biomass and Bioenergy Research Group
Jason Stockall, Drax
John Swaan, FutureMetrics
Ian Tencarre, Drax
Frank Wall, Premium Pellet Ltd.
Miles Wright, Great Northern Timber
Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Wood Pellet Association of Canada

Top areas of focus:

- Supporting industry on proposed combustible dust regulations and critical control management
- Safety Committee Meetings
- Steering Committee Meetings

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