MAG Q3 Workshop Brings Contractor Safety into Focus

MAG members attended the Q3 workshop in Quesnel, BC, hosted by West Fraser Plywood. The focus of the session was contractor safety management. Troy Withey led the workshop with talking about the key considerations for managing contractors safely on site.

The discussion focused on the important role owners and supervisors play when contractors are working alongside day-to-day operations. Participants explored how clear expectations, open communication and supervision can help ensure contractors receive the same level of safety support and attention as employees.

Throughout the session, members shared ideas and discussed practical ways to strengthen their contractor safety programs.

Following the workshop, members moved into company-based working groups to review their own contractor management practices. By applying the workshop learnings to real workplace examples, each group had the opportunity to identify meaningful steps they could take back to their organizations.



MAG Q3 meeting and Mill Tour

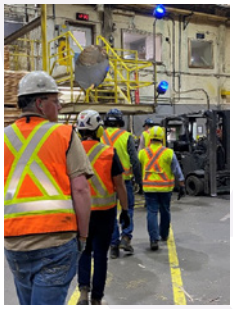


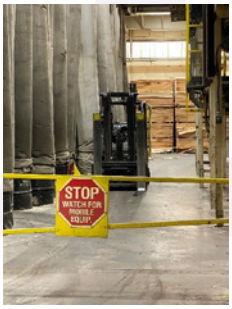
Following the workshop, members toured the plywood facility to see some of West Fraser's safety practices in action. The tour provided a close look at the systems and controls the plant uses to manage pedestrian and mobile equipment traffic.

The plant has implemented a number of measures to reduce the potential for incidents involving pedestrians and mobile equipment, including:

- Flashing lights above walkways
- Barriers separating pedestrian zones from mobile equipment
- Signage and walkway gates prompting pedestrians to stop, check for vehicle traffic and blind spots before proceeding

We extend our sincere appreciation to Lori Saretsky, Troy Withey, Jessica Williams and the entire West Fraser team for hosting the MAG members and sharing valuable insights into their safety programs.





Independent Lumber Manufacturers' Association (ILMA) Conference Sept 21-22nd

BC Forest Safety Council was proud to take part in this year's Independent Lumber Manufacturers' Association (ILMA) Convention, held September 21-22, 2026, at Spirit Ridge Resort in Osoyoos, BC. This year's theme, *Where's the Fibre?*, explored the challenges and opportunities facing BC's forest sector.

It was great to connect with conference attendees at the BCFSC booth and hand out our free safety resources, including QR code sheets for Harvesting, SAFE Companies, Falling, Manufacturing and Training.

If you're attending a forestry conference next year, be sure to stop by the BCFSC booth for a chat. We'd be happy to answer your questions and set you up with some great forest safety resources and free swag.

Preparing for Changes to Combustible Dust Regulations



At the 2026 Vancouver Island Safety Conference on Saturday, October 16th, Bill Laturnus presented upcoming changes to the Combustible Dust regulations that take effect January 4th, 2027. These include changes to Part 6 of the regulations. There are now 24 Sections instead of one sentence for the regulation. 12 sections require consultations with a qualified person (QP), 4 sections require consultation with JOHSC members.

If your operation would like more information on understanding and implementing the new regulations, contact Bill Laturnus, Senior Safety Advisor, Manufacturing for free support. blaturnus@bcforestsafe.org or 778-268-0653.

New Fall from Heights workshops to take place in 2027 at varying locations in BC

MAG auditor Nicole Brandson facilitated a Fall from Heights pilot workshop at the MAG Q4 meeting in November. The workshop uses data collected from the manufacturing audits conducted from 2019-2024. Working at Heights was a common hazard identified in the audits.

This free Fall from Heights workshop will be offered throughout 2027. If your company would like to participate, please email manufacturing@bcforestsafe.org.

MAG Benchmarking – AI Pilot Program

An AI pilot program has been initiated with EHS to enhance MAG benchmarking. This initiative focuses on existing injury data to provide a clearer understanding of emerging trends in incidents, potential near misses and Serious Injury and Fatality potential (SIFp). The MAG group reviewed the results of the pilot at the MAG Q4 meeting in November.



Sunshine Borsato Earns the Certified Dust Safety Professional Certification Designation

Sunshine Borsato, safety consultant/COR auditor/MAG auditor
Timber Trek Consulting Ltd.

Please join us in congratulating Sunshine Borsato, Safety Consultant, COR Auditor, and MAG Auditor, on earning her Certified Dust Safety Professional (CDSP) designation through the Combustible Dust Training Institute.

This certification recognizes Sunshine's extensive knowledge of combustible dust hazards, risk management principles, and strategies for identifying, assessing, and mitigating hazards. Earning the CDSP designation required completing a rigorous training program and passing a comprehensive qualifying exam.

Sunshine has worked in safety for 25 years, and forestry has been her favourite sector. She has been a COR auditor for 19 years and is also a MAG auditor with the BCFSC, where she has recently been using the revised combustible dust audit. This audit aligns with the upcoming changes to the WSBC Regulation on combustible dust.

Her interest in dust began in 2012, when she started learning about and developing combustible dust programs in response to mill explosions. It has remained a focus ever since. After attending a MAG group training workshop last year, she enrolled in the Combustible Dust Safety Professional course through the Combustible Dust Training Institute. Now that she has earned her designation, she is eager to keep learning as she applies these tools in her work with the MAG group and supports companies as a safety consultant.

Congratulations, Sunshine, on this well-deserved achievement, and thank you for your continued dedication to manufacturing safety excellence.