

Forestry Workers Continue to Turn to Connection to Care for Support

As pressures facing BC's forestry sector continue, we are doing our best to navigate unprecedented challenges. Work-related stress, anxiety over the unknown or simply feeling overwhelmed can create a mental load that sometimes seems unbearable. But no one should feel they have to carry the burden alone.

That is why the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) introduced Connection to Care, to provide free, confidential support for forestry workers in times of need.

Since launching in January 2026, the service has seen a growing number of callers from across the province. Therapeutic support has been the most requested service, highlighting the vital need for this program. During the first quarter, Connection to Care received 26 forestry-related calls, with nearly half of those calls lasting more than 30 minutes. By July, that number had grown to 48 calls from forestry workers, with more than half of callers seeking therapeutic support. Call durations also increased to 40 to 50 minutes, further highlighting the demand for these services.

The Q2 report showed that over 75% of callers in Q2 were first-time users, which confirms the Connection to Care program is continuing to reach new individuals. The report also showed strong engagement from regions across the province, particularly the Kootenays, Interior and Northern BC.

Online engagement remained steady, with 1,217 users visiting the Connection to Care website during Q2. Most visitors accessed the site directly, and the Home, Resources and About pages were the most frequently visited. This activity reflects continued interest in learning about the program and accessing available online mental health supports and resources.

Connection to Care and BC Forestry Workers:

Connection to Care is available to all BC forestry workers, no matter your role, sector or employment status. You do not need to be in crisis to use this service; sometimes a conversation is all it takes. Take advantage of this free, confidential and anonymous service. Reaching out is a sign of strength and help is only a phone call away.

Connection to Care

- Phone: **778-247-2273 (CARE)**
- Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Let Your Crew Know

BCFSC has posters and wallet cards available to help you spread the word. Display posters in high-traffic areas and hand out wallet cards so your crew always has the contact information close at hand when they need it.

Welcome to the Fall edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at editor@bcforestsafesafe.org or call **1-877-741-1060**.

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We can also work with you to find ways to get the word out to your crew and to promote the program within your operation to ensure your crew knows how to access this support. Contact us by phone at 1-877-741-1060 or email us at info@bcforestsafesafe.org.

Connection to Care is proudly supported by the Western Forestry Contractors Association (WFCA), Interior Logging Association (ILA), Truck Loggers Association (TLA), United Steelworkers, Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) and the BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI).



MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 8PM
778-247-2273 (CARE)

Connection to care is a **FREE** phone service providing anonymous and confidential support to BC Forestry workers.



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:

BC COUNSELLORS

MUNICIPAL SAFETY

BC Forest Safety

Your mental health and wellbeing matters.
ConnectionToCare.ca





What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since June 2026. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Connection to Care – This mental health assistance program is a FREE, anonymous and confidential phone service designed to support forestry workers across British Columbia. **Call 778-247-2273 (CARE), Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 8:00pm (PST)** to speak with a trained mental health professional.

BCFSC 2025 Annual Report – The BCFSC 2025 Annual Report is now available.

Forest Industry Lost Time Injury Fact Sheets are now available.

Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC) - Registration is Now Open – VISC is quickly approaching. Register today to attend the Vancouver Island Safety Conference in Nanaimo BC on Saturday, October 17th from 8:30am – 3:30pm.

Fall In-Person Training Calendar – Plan your fall 2026 safety training. Our in-person training calendar is now fully loaded on the BCFSC website. Take a look and see what's in store for fall 2026. Is there a course you see that you might want delivered directly to your organization? We also provide requested training bringing courses directly to your preferred location at a convenient time that works for you.

Share Your Manufacturing Safety Innovations – Manufacturing Safety Innovations play a vital role in keeping workplaces safe—and sharing those ideas can make a real difference across the industry. BCFSC is looking to highlight manufacturing safety innovations through eblasts, social media, and the BCFSC website to inspire safer practices on the job.

If you've developed or come across a safety innovation that others could benefit from, we'd love to hear about it! **Submit your idea** by emailing Bill Laturnus at blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org.

Safety Alerts – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** – Click on the link to see the latest monthly safety alert from BCFSC
- **Industry Alert** – Click on the link to see the latest industry provided safety alerts
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – Click on the link to see the latest weekly alert

To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)

Industry News

Get the latest on industry news from:

- **WorkSafeBC Enews** – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.
- **WorkSafe Magazine** – WorkSafeBC publishes *WorkSafe Magazine* six times a year to inform, inspire and provide practical tips on a range of topical occupational health and safety matters. It's free to [subscribe](#) and available online.
- **Tree Frog Forestry News** – daily news with top stories and full news stories on the forest sector in North America and around the world.

- **Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)** – FESBC shares news and information about BC forestry.
- **Truck Loggers Association (TLA)** – a monthly newsletter and 1/4ly magazine (Truck Logger BC) offering stories from BC provincial forestry perspectives, information and updates.
- **Interior Logging Association** – the ILA insider is a 1/4ly newsletter featuring timber harvesting news, information and updates throughout BC.
- **The Cache - Western Forestry Contractors' Association** – The Cache is an online space to share wisdom, experience, information, tools and resources generated by the silviculture community.
- **Wood Pellets Association of Canada (WPAC) News** – read the latest news from WPAC and subscribe to receive the WPAC newsletter.

Industry Links

Road Safety at Work – visit Road Safety at Work for resources, webinars, workshops and news relating to road safety for you and your employees.

WorkSafeBC Announcements – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more. 📢

Register for the Vancouver Island Safety Conference Coming Saturday, October 17, 2026

The **2026 Vancouver Island Safety Conference (VISC)** is set for Saturday, October 17 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo, BC.

Event: Vancouver Island Safety Conference

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2026

Time: 8:30am - 3:30pm (Registration opens at 7:30am)

Location: Vancouver Island Conference Centre | 101 Gordon St., Nanaimo, BC

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:

Register before September 15, 2026 and you'll be automatically entered to win a BCFSC Stanfield Shirt and Toque.

VISC Registration Deadline: October 2, 2026

This free, one-day event, made possible thanks to the generous support of our industry sponsors, is a must attend to anyone working in BC's Forest industry - from silviculture and harvesting to wood products manufacturing.

This Year's Theme: *Built to Last – Stronger Teams, Strengthening Safety*

Join us for a powerful day of learning and collaboration as we explore the human factors that shape safety in the workplace. Through real stories and expert insights, we'll examine how leadership and personal accountability play a role in building safer, healthier work environments.

Keynote Speakers:

- **Paul Krismer** – Paul brings 25 years of experience as a former senior leader for Worker's Compensation and a professional leadership consultant. In his presentation, he will provide insight on how to improve employee engagement, leadership effectiveness, resilience and workplace culture.
- **Darcy Kulai** – Darcy, a former mill worker, will recount his life-changing experience of being seriously injured on the green chain when he was only 20 years old and will address the importance of training and mentoring young workers in high-risk work environments.
- **Mike Kay** – Mike has 47 years of frontline emergency medical service experience as a former Advanced Care Paramedic and Flight Medic. Using his personal experience of extracting injured workers from remote site operations, Mike examines real world prehospital trauma care for injured workers, comparing current practices with evidence-based improvements that can save lives, before advanced care arrives.

What to Expect:

- **Engaging Safety Presentations** – Hear from speakers who bring safety to life through personal experience and professional insight.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Connect with peers, leaders and innovators across the industry.
- **Practical Takeaways** – Learn about the latest safety practices and tools that you can apply in your workplace.

VISC Agenda – Take a look at the draft agenda and see what's in store for the day.

REGISTER TODAY and be part of the conversation that's shaping the future of safety in BC forestry and help us move towards our shared goal where every forestry worker goes home safe—every day. 🌲



BCFSC Safety Awards: Recognizing Those Who Make a Difference

Strong safety cultures are built by people who lead by example. Each year, the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) recognizes individuals whose dedication, leadership and commitment help make BC's Forest industry safer through the BCFSC Leadership in Safety Awards.

These awards celebrate the champions of safety across the industry. Whether they are mentoring others, introducing innovative safety practices or demonstrating an unwavering commitment to safe work, these individuals help create safe workplaces day in and day out.

Know Someone Making a Difference? Nominate Them Today

BCFSC encourages workers, supervisors, employers and industry peers to nominate individuals who are helping advance safety in forestry and manufacturing. The awards provide an opportunity to recognize those whose efforts often happen behind the scenes but have a lasting impact on their coworkers and workplaces.

Award recipients will be recognized on Saturday, October 17th at the Vancouver Island Safety Conference.

How to Submit a Nomination

Send your nomination to info@bcforestsafety.org and include:

- Nominee's name (first and last)
- Nominee's job title
- Nominee's employer and location
- Award category (Cary White Memorial Award, Forest Safety MVP or Manufacturing Safety MVP)
- Details explaining why you are nominating them
- Your name and email address

The nomination deadline is Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Award Categories

- **Cary White Memorial Award:** This award recognizes an individual who has shown outstanding safety leadership. Someone who consistently goes above and beyond - offering a helping hand, sharing their experience and using their knowledge to support others in reaching their safety goals. This prestigious award is named in memory of Cary White, a passionate safety advocate who left a lasting legacy in the industry.

- **Forest Safety Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award:** This award goes to someone who has shown exceptional commitment to safety in forestry harvesting operations, including silviculture, hand falling, mechanized harvesting, road building or log hauling. It could be a worker, supervisor, manager, safety committee member or company owner that has demonstrated strong leadership in making safety a core part of their daily work.
- **Manufacturing Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award:** This award recognizes an individual, team or company who shows excellence in leadership, training, innovation and best practices in wood products manufacturing.

The Leadership in Safety Awards highlight the positive impact that individuals can have on the people around them. By recognizing those who lead with commitment, accountability and care, we can continue to build a culture where safety is always front and centre.

Visit our [Leadership in Safety webpage](#) for more details. 📄



NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY



Second Pass Forestry Ltd. Shares a Simple Safety Idea for Hunting Season

When you spend your days working in remote areas, safety is always on your mind, especially when help isn't close at hand. For Second Pass Forestry Ltd. (SPF), a Kamloops-based forestry consulting company, they were concerned about their crew working in remote areas during hunting season. So, they introduced a simple but effective safety initiative by placing signs on company vehicles to let hunters know crews are working in the area.

It's a small step that takes only a few seconds to implement, but it reflects the company's overall approach to safety: practical, proactive and focused on looking out for their remote workers.

SPF was founded in 2015 by brothers Tanner and Darcy LeBourdais and started as a two-person operation. Today, the company has grown to a team of seven staff and provides a wide range of forestry services, including timber development, ecosystem restoration, silviculture, wildfire risk reduction, Indigenous tenure management, woodlot management and wildfire suppression training.

"We started with just the two of us and slowly added people as the work came in," says Tanner LeBourdais, RPF and co-owner of SPF.

And while the company has grown over the years, staying relatively small remains important. Tanner believes that a smaller team helps create a workplace where people know each other well and genuinely look out for one another, and that close-knit culture plays a big role in how the company approaches safety.

SAFE Certified Since Day One

SPF became SAFE Certified when the company was first established. What began as a client requirement quickly became something they fully embraced.

"We became SAFE Certified right out of the gate and will never look back," says Tanner. "The program is excellent at promoting healthy work environments and the resources are incredible as a baseline for operations. We make use of the available resources to ensure our safety program is functioning as it should."

A Simple Idea That Makes Sense

Over the years, SPF has continued to build on its safety practices and procedures. Their seasonal work is like most forestry operations across the province and is their busiest time trying to get as much done as they

can before the weather changes. This means they have to work during times when they aren't the only ones using the forest and for that reason, they have to consider the safety of their crews working remotely.

One of SPF's most visible safety practices is conducted during spring and fall hunting seasons. Each company vehicle is equipped with a sign that alerts hunters that forestry crews are working in the area.

The idea wasn't originally SPF's. It was an idea that came from Tanner's time working for Tolko earlier in his career, and it later became a regular part of SPF's operations.

"We adopted the practice after talking about it in one of our safety meetings," he says. "A lot of people had stories about being out in the woods and hearing gunshots that felt a little too close for comfort."

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While incidents involving hunters are rare, the team felt there was no downside to taking an extra precaution.

“It was a no-brainer,” Tanner says. “Putting up a sign isn’t difficult, and if it helps make people aware that workers are in the area, it’s worth doing.”

The signs are a good example of SPF’s belief that safety doesn’t always need to be complicated. Sometimes small actions can make a meaningful difference.

Safety Starts Before the Workday

Beyond the hunting season signs, preparation is one of the company’s biggest safety tools. Every day starts with conversations about potential hazards, whether that’s during a morning meeting, in the truck or at the tailgate before heading into the field.

“We talk about what we’re going to face that day and encourage everyone to keep reassessing conditions as they change,” says Tanner. “This is especially important during wildfire season, when conditions can shift quickly.”

SPF also has detailed Emergency Response Plans for every operating area where crews work. These plans are continually updated and include emergency contacts, access instructions and other important information that could help speed up a response if something goes wrong.

Training is another key part of the company’s safety culture. New employees go through a comprehensive onboarding program that includes safety policies, safe work procedures and training related to wildlife awareness, wilderness safety and other field hazards. But most importantly, people are encouraged to speak up.

“We want everyone to feel comfortable asking questions, raising concerns or stopping work if something doesn’t feel right,” says Tanner. “Safety isn’t something we only talk about during orientations or meetings. It’s part of everyday conversations.”

Keeping Safety Simple

When we asked Tanner what advice he would offer other forestry companies, he kept it straightforward.

“Don’t overcomplicate it,” he says. “Some of the best safety improvements are the simplest ones. Listen to your crews because they’re the ones out there every day.”

For SPF, the hunting season signs are a perfect example of that mindset. It’s a practical, low-cost idea that helps raise awareness and reduce risk for people working in the field.

At the end of the day, Tanner believes successful safety programs aren’t about having the thickest manual or the most complicated procedures. “It’s about creating a culture where everyone looks after themselves and each other,” he says.

For SPF, that starts with preparation, communication and a willingness to adopt safety practices that can be easily implemented and understood by everyone.

BCFSC would like to thank SPF for sharing this simple and effective safety initiative. We’d love to hear how other forestry companies are keeping their teams safe in the field. Share your ideas and stories with us at info@bcforestsafesafe.org. 

Safety Spotlight – “Don’t Think That It Can’t Happen to You”

The term workplace safety can mean very different things to individual employees, but ultimately the goal is to protect workers from injury and ensure everyone goes home safely – every day. Some workplaces are fortunate to have passionate people willing to take on the heavy lifting and go the extra mile to be advocates for safety in their workplace. They work tirelessly to ensure the people they work with don’t become another statistic. At times, it can be a thankless and difficult task, but if even one accident can be prevented, it’s worth all the extra effort.

Mark McCucheeon is one such individual, and this is a small part of his story as a champion of safety within the forest sector.

Mark works as a red seal automotive mechanic for K&D Logging Ltd. in Fort St. James BC. He is an avid long-distance runner and rock climber and enjoys exploring the forests and backcountry surrounding the small Northern community in pursuit of these passions. He has been a mechanic for the last sixteen years and recently achieved his ten-year anniversary

working with K&D. His roots within the BC forest industry run even deeper, however, having previously worked in a variety of roles as a tree planter from the mid 1990’s to 2008. The uncertainty of the 2008 financial crisis prompted him to make the leap into the trades in search of more stability for himself and his young family.

Mark has been a member of K&D’s Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) since he started working for the

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company. In fact, he has fulfilled the role of worker representative co-chair on the JHSC since he started with the company. In this role, Mark is often one of the first people to be made aware of safety items that are critically important to the frontline workers. During a committee meeting in 2023, a discussion regarding the acceptance of inherent risk within the industry gave Mark cause to reflect on the subject. This got his creative juices flowing and inspired him to write a poem to help raise awareness on the topic.

BCFSC: How did you get started in your forestry career?

Mark McCutcheon: After graduating high school in Toronto back in the 90's a group of buddies who worked in Northern Ontario planting trees introduced me to the silviculture world. One thing led to another, and in 1995 I showed up in Lumby, a town I'd never seen, to work with a company I'd never worked for, and a group of people I'd never met to do a job I'd never done before, planting trees. I spent the next few years going back and forth between BC and Ontario working summers in BC planting and ski patrolling during the winter in Ontario. I moved out to BC in 1998 to begin working full-time in forestry. In 2008 the forest sector was hit hard by the financial crisis and US housing market crash, and I switched careers at the age of 36 to pursue a job in the trades as an automotive mechanic. After approximately six years working as a mechanic, I contacted one of the owners of K&D Logging about a job. And that's how I ended up here today.

BCFSC: What do you enjoy the most about your job?

MMc: When I first started planting, vehicles were often not in great mechanical condition and had safety issues that nobody was even aware of. Driving is one of the most dangerous activities that workers in the forest sector complete on a daily basis. As a

mechanic, I can help prevent accidents from occurring and potentially help save lives through preventative maintenance. That's a pretty great feeling.

BCFSC: Who do you think is primarily responsible for workplace and worker safety?

MMc: Ultimately the owners of the company, and the individual, are responsible for their own safety and that of their co-workers. K&D Logging has a top-down approach to safety. I feel that all companies should provide workers with the necessary protective equipment, safety training and workplace conditions, and the workers should use all of these to the fullest extent to work as safely as possible. From my experience repeating the same canned message about safety isn't effective over time. My approach is to use variety to help drive the message home and keep people engaged.

BCFSC: How would you describe your personal approach to safety?

MMc: I always make safety the highest priority because of all the personal things that are important in my life, family, hobbies etc. I take the time to do the job in a safe way, while being conscious of balancing production and your job responsibilities. That is the message I try to pass along to the crew as a safety representative.

BCFSC: How do you encourage others to take safety seriously?

MMc: I've found that for lots of people, 'safety isn't a serious issue...until it becomes one'. When in fact, the opposite is true, and safety should always be on top of everyone's mind. Incidents can happen to anyone, at any time. When all things are considered, it doesn't take longer to do a job safely. Some people have a false sense of security in that regard. I just encourage them to take their time and consider the options required to do their jobs safely.

BCFSC: What was the inspiration for writing this poem? Was there a specific incident?

MMc: During a JHSC meeting in 2023, the phrase "*It can happen to or anyone at any time*" came up. It was viewed almost as an accepted part of working in the industry. The view that incidents are going to happen no matter what we do, and we just have to live with that fact and find ways to minimize the consequences.

I decided to rethink the phrase and present it in a different way, one that would prompt employees to recognize that accidents can happen in the blink of an eye, and often when you least expect it and your guard is down. We work in an inherently dangerous industry, and you're foolish if you think that it can't happen to you.

BCFSC: What message do you hope readers take away from the poem?

MMc: I really hope that it resonates with people. To me, the title and last line send a strong message that some may not always think of or often take for granted. We sometimes have a false sense of security, and reading this poem may cause some people to slow down and think about the dangers and consequences of the job or task that they are about to complete. If it helps prevent an accident, and potentially save a life, that would be a great outcome.

BCFSC: If you could go back in time, what advice would you give yourself as a new or young worker?

MMc: I guess I would tell myself to recognize that your whole life can change in a split second. Take time to reflect on your own mortality. You only get one chance at life, and it can be gone in an instant. As I've gotten older, my sense of mortality has shifted, I realize I'm not indestructible.

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Don't think that it can't happen to you

By Mark McCutcheon | 03/21/23

*Don't think that it can't happen to you
If you've worked here forever or you are just brand new
You go into work, you work as a team
None of our jobs are as safe as they seem*

*In all of our tasks, there is inherent risk
In the blink of an eye, you can have a near miss
More serious than that, a bad injury
And more serious than that, a FATALITY
It could happen to you, complacency kills
We try to prevent it, hence all the drills*

*Don't think that it can't happen to you
It isn't a joke, all the training we do
Training prepares us, but it doesn't ensure
It won't eliminate danger, it isn't a cure
Drive to conditions to stay on the road
Use an appropriate speed and consider the load*

*Assess your surroundings and the risks of your job
Stop and report it, if something starts to throb
The best approach you can take is; keep your mind on task
If that object's too heavy, there's help, just ask
Slips, trips and falls are too common, it seems
Use 3-points of contact when you climb on machines*

*Think through what you're doing, there's no need to rush
We've seen too many accidents, enough is enough
Look out for yourself, look out for each other
The most crucial factor is the safety of one another
Don't think that it can't happen to you
That's when it WILL happen..... the moment you do*



BCFSC 2025 Annual Report Now Available

BC Forest Safety Council's (BCFSC) 2025 Annual Report is now available. Take a look at the initiatives, achievements and progress BCFSC has made over the past year. The report highlights key safety programs, industry engagement activities, training developments and the collective efforts of industry partners working to strengthen safety performance across BC's forest sector.

[BCFSC 2025 Annual Report](#) 

New Forest Industry Lost Time Injury Fact Sheets Released

BCFSC has also published the latest Forest Industry Lost Time Injury (LTI) Fact Sheets, providing a quick and easy overview of injury trends across the sector. The fact sheets break down key statistics and offer insights into where injuries are occurring and how safety performance is changing over time.

These resources can help employers, supervisors and workers better understand the industry's safety picture and identify opportunities for improvement. We encourage you to review the fact sheets with your team and use the information to support ongoing conversations about injury prevention and workplace safety.

[Lost Time Injury Fact Sheets](#) 

WorkSafeBC Board of Directors Decision: Classification of Sawmill and Forest Tenure Firms

On July 9, 2026, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors revised policy in the Assessment Manual to clarify that companies engaged in forest tenure operations in connection with a sawmill may be assigned to multiple classification units. The updated policy provides greater clarity on how these operations are classified for assessment purposes and will apply to all decisions made on or after **January 1, 2027**.

View the complete [Resolution](#) on the WorkSafeBC website. 📄

Reminder: Upcoming Amendments to Combustible Dust Requirements

If combustible dust is a hazard in your operation, now is the time to start preparing for upcoming regulatory changes. Amendments to Part 6 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation relating to combustible dusts will take effect on January 4, 2027, and will provide a clearer definition of combustible dust and strengthen requirements for identifying, assessing and controlling the combustible dust hazards in the workplace.

WorkSafeBC has provided information and resources to help employers understand the changes and ensure their workplaces are ready before the new requirements take effect. Visit WorkSafeBC's [Combustible Dusts webpage](#) to learn more. 📄

Young Worker Safety

WorkSafeBC is reminding employers that young and new workers can be at greater risk of injury, especially when they are unfamiliar with their jobs or hesitant to speak up about safety concerns. In 2025, more than 7,000 injury claims were made by young workers, and 18 young workers lost their lives between 2021 and 2025.

This is a strong reminder about the importance of providing thorough training, close supervision, and clear safety expectations from day one. Employers are also encouraged to foster a workplace culture where workers feel comfortable asking questions, reporting hazards, and exercising their right to refuse unsafe work.

[Read more on the WorkSafeBC website.](#) 📄

WorkSafeBC Board of Directors Approves Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

At its July 2026 meeting, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved several regulatory amendments related to face seals, automotive lifts, and periodic certification requirements. Employers are encouraged to review these changes to understand how they may impact their workplaces and compliance obligations. Click the links below to learn more about each amendment and what actions, if any, may be required.

- **Part 8, Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment — Respirators: Face Seal** | [Approved amendments with explanatory notes](#). These amendments will come into effect on November 6, 2026.
- **Part 12, Tools, Machinery and Equipment — Automotive Lifts and Other Vehicle Supports** | [Approved amendments with explanatory notes](#). These amendments will come into effect on March 1, 2027.
- **Parts 4, 13, 14, 20, 28, and 31 — Periodic Certification of Equipment as Safe for Use** | [Approved amendments with explanatory notes](#). These amendments will come into effect on September 1, 2027. 📄

WorkSafeBC holding the average base rate flat in 2027 for 10th consecutive year

WorkSafeBC has announced the preliminary average base rate for 2027 will remain at \$1.55 per \$100 of assessable payroll. Subject to final approval by WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors in the fall, this will be the 10th consecutive year that the average base rate has remained at this level.

Read the article on [Understanding WorkSafeBC's Surplus](#) from the summer 2026 of WorkSafe Magazine. 📖

WorkSafe Magazine: Summer 2026 Issue

Read the latest articles from the Summer 2026 edition of WorkSafe Magazine.

Demystifying workplace inspections: A good inspection can prevent injuries, save time, and reduce costly surprises. It helps workplaces spot issues early and strengthen safety practices.

Managing risks with a key risk inventory: A key risk inventory (KRI) is a simple, easy-to-read summary of the key risks on a worksite. Key risks are risks that could result in a serious injury, fatality, or disease. A KRI briefly describes each key risk, the risk controls currently in place, and whether those controls need to be improved.

Rotating telehandlers: Understanding and reducing the risks: Rotating telehandlers are used across many industries to move materials on worksites. These machines have a telescoping boom that extends upward and forward. Both the boom and the cab are mounted on a rotating turntable. More than 100 attachments can be added to the boom, allowing the machine to perform different tasks.

Building better safety together: A recent seminar challenged joint health and safety committees and worker health and safety representatives to move

beyond compliance. The focus was on spotting risks early and building a culture of open, honest safety conversations.

Clarifying standards for safety headgear and respirators: This article focuses on practical steps employers can take to prevent struck-by incidents around mobile equipment.

WorkSafeBC Proposes Clarifications to Classification Change Policy

WorkSafeBC is proposing updates to its *Assessment Manual* to make its classification change policy easier to understand. Currently, if an employer does not provide timely, complete, or accurate information, or does not respond promptly to WorkSafeBC requests, the issue is addressed under the heading of fraud or misrepresentation. This can be confusing when the situation is simply an oversight or unintentional mistake. To provide greater clarity, WorkSafeBC's Policy, Regulation and Research Department has released a discussion paper with proposed policy changes that would better explain how these types of contraventions are considered when determining whether a company's classification should be changed. [Click here to read the discussion paper.](#) 📖

Policy Consultations and Public Hearings

WorkSafeBC's Policy, Regulation and Research Department is requesting feedback on the following:

- Harassment and Violence sections 4.107 and 4.110–4.118 in the proposed new Part 4.1 of the OHS Regulation
- Psychological Health and Safety sections 4.107 to 4.109 in the proposed new Part 4.1 of the OHS Regulation

[Part 4.1, Psychological Health and Safety, Harassment and Violence — Harassment and Violence](#)

Interested parties are invited to provide feedback on both the Harassment and Violence and Psychological Health and Safety sections by Friday, October 9, 2026 by 4:30pm. 📅