



SAFETY ALERT

OF THE MONTH

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Preparing for Winter

AOM: 2026-10-15

Some risks are hard to predict but the arrival of winter and the challenges it brings is a foreseeable event. Knowing that shorter days, colder temperatures and stormy weather are on the way, what steps can you take now to keep operations running smoothly?

Winter Preparation Tips

Production Pressure – Winter can be a busy time of year with high production demands. Work hard but remember that safety is the priority.

Get Some Traction - Icy ground and roads are a major hazard but the right equipment like proper tires, chains and ice lugs on tracks can help reduce risks.

Light Things Up – Winter days are short. Good lighting is essential to help identify worksite hazards. Lighting technology has improved dramatically in recent years; upgrading lighting for equipment and vehicles is a good investment.

New Training – Workers may need additional training to safely operate winter machinery such as snowmobiles and snow-clearing equipment.

Shut Down Criteria – All operations should consider when to shutdown due to severe storms or icy conditions. Discuss with your crew and contractors when it's OK to stay home.

Light On the Controls – Winter driving and machine operation requires a gentle touch. Smooth, light and deliberate use of vehicle and machine controls will help maintain traction and stability in slippery conditions.

Cold Weather First Aid– Cold temperatures reduce survival time when someone is seriously injured. Conduct drills in winter conditions to test response times and identify potential challenges. Add cold-weather supplies such as thermal blankets, insulated ground pads, instant hot packs, and shelter materials to help protect injured workers from the elements.

Mental Health – Winter can be a challenging time for mental health. Check in with workers regularly, be aware of signs that someone may be struggling and offer available support like [Connection to Care](#).

Resources:

- 1) [Winter Safety Resources](#)
- 2) [Avalanche Safety Resources](#)
- 3) [Safety Alert – Snow Clearing Tip Over Incident](#)





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BCFSC Latest News & Resources

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

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

Forest Safety News – read the latest issue of the FSN

BCFSC Training:

Oct 29 - 30 | [Due Diligence for Forest Supervisors – Kamloops](#)

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

Nov 3 - 6 | [Falling Supervisor – Campbell River](#)

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

Nov 16 - 17 | [Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors - Nelson](#)

This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Nov 18 - 19 | [Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors – Prince George](#)

This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Nov 20 | [Basics of Incident Investigation – Prince George](#)

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

Nov 25 - 26 | [Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors – Kamloops](#)

This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Nov 27 | [Basics of Incident Investigation - Kamloops](#)

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

Dec 2 - 3 | [Leadership and Communication for Forest Supervisors – Campbell River](#)

This two-day classroom workshop provides participants with insights into their strengths and weaknesses, and how their personal style influences the workers they oversee.

Dec 4 | [Basics of Incident Investigation – Campbell River](#)

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

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