



WORKSAFEBC 2016 HIGH RISK STRATEGY FOR FORESTRY OVERVIEW

The 2016 Forestry High Risk Strategy (FHRS) was developed by examining claims data and identifying work processes and activities to find out which had the highest potential for causing serious injury.

It represents year three of a five-year strategic direction for prevention activities. The hope is that the Forestry High Risk Strategy will help WorkSafeBC inspections be as impactful as possible by focusing on those areas of timber harvesting which represent exceptional risk to workers. We expect that consistent and resolute application of the Forestry High Risk Strategy over time will result in a measurable reduction in injuries, serious injuries, and fatalities. Good news for the whole industry.

Identified high-risk work activities

typically fall into the four areas of timber harvesting as follows:

- Manual Tree Falling
- Mechanized Harvesting
- Cable Yarding
- Log Transportation

Within these four areas, Forestry High Risk Strategy inspections will focus on the 11 classification units that have the highest rates of injury and serious injury.

Primary Focus:

- Cable or Hi-Lead Logging (703003)
- Ground Skidding, Horse Logging, or Log Loading (703006)
- Integrated Forest Management (703008)
- Log Processing (703011)
- Manual Tree Falling and Bucking (703013)

- Mechanized Tree Falling (703014)
- Helicopter Logging (703019)
- Log Hauling (732044)

Secondary Focus (seasonal/geographic considerations):

- Brushing and Weeding or Tree Thinning or Spacing (703002)
- Forest Fire Fighting (703005)
- Tree Planting or Cone Picking (703016)

The table below left, under **Inspection Focus**, indicates the harvesting activities, as part of the 2016 FHRS, the prevention officer must inspect and evaluate to meet the requirements of the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*.

Although silviculture operations are not identified as one of the four main areas of the Forestry High Risk Strategy, this segment of the industry does generate a high number of serious injuries. As a result, it's included as a secondary (and seasonal) focus of the Forestry High Risk Strategy.

Another focus, over and above the four main areas, is Emergency Response Planning (ERP). It was identified as a critical target area for the FHRS because of a number of serious ERP failures documented at forestry workplaces through incident investigations. WorkSafeBC has developed a Forestry Emergency Response Plan video for employers to use when developing and evaluating Emergency Response Planning (ERP). It's called "Every Minute Counts: Emergency Response Planning in Forestry" and is available on our YouTube channel.

Prevention officers are also expected to conduct a review of workplace accountabilities to ensure that all employers, prime contractors and owners are meeting their workplace responsibilities under *Workers Compensation Act* and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*. In addition, supervisors and workers responsibilities are also reviewed during inspections.

| Harvesting Phase | Mech. Injury/ Area of Risk | Inspection Focus |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Manual Felling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of tree (falling cuts) • Risk assessment (windfall, danger tree, etc.) • Brushing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falling cuts 2. Danger tree and windfall assessment and plans 3. Unnecessary brushing practices 4. New faller training locations |
| Mechanized Harvesting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance work • Getting off and on machinery • Equipment – loss of stability • Congestion | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance work plan and lockout 2. Three Point Contact procedures 3. Steep slope assessment plans 4. Site planning and layout |
| Cable Yarding Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Struck by Logs • Slips and Falls • Congestion | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing the turn 2. Yarding angles 3. Landing the log 4. Site planning and layout |
| Log Transporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicle accidents • Loading and unloading activities • Maintenance Work • MSI shoulder injuries • Proper use and installation of Binders | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Driving and Road Assessment 2. Loading, off-loading and securing of load 3. Best practices for maintenance work (lock out, access and egress) 4. Cab Guards 5. Binder use and installation |

| Other Phase | Mech. Injury/Area of Risk | Inspection Focus |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Silviculture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor Vehicle accidents Lack of adequate MSI risk assessment/Management Program | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and conducting operations Driver training/policies MSI Risk |
| All Phases | Areas of Unmitigated High Risk | Inspection Focus |
| Emergency Response Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of ERP or inadequate ERP/potential for delayed medical treatment with potential catastrophic consequences for the worker | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> First aid assessment Lack of ERP practice and testing Helicopter access only daily plan |
| Integrated Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of High Risk Violations Site Congestion Planning/inadequate Communication/inadequate Management of Change/failure to consider | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All levels of Management are accountable and responsibilities reviewed |

This is just a brief overview of the 2016 Forestry High Risk Strategy. If you would like more information, please contact your local Prevention Officer for more information. Prevention Officers are also available to attend employer's workplace and educate and consult further with regards to the 2016 Forestry High Risk Strategy. For additional information employers and workers can also access the WorkSafeBC website www.worksafebc.com and the Prevention Information phone: 1-604-276-3100 or toll-free 1-888-621-7233.▲

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UPDATED

Did you know?

**COMPANIES HAVE
3 DAYS
TO REPORT AN INJURY**

Industry has worked hard to reduce its prior average of 21 days to 12 days in the past year, but more needs to be done. When there is an injury at work, an employer **must** file that information with WorkSafeBC within 3 days. Prompt claim filing means the best outcomes for the injured worker and the company, saving industry tens of millions of dollars in costs. **Safety is good business.**

Learn more at www.bcforestsafe.org



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