



FALLING TEAM'S MISSION IS TO REDUCE INJURY RATE AMONG FALLERS

Manual falling, without question, is the single most hazardous occupation in the province of BC, with an injury rate of 27.3 per 100 workers last year and a serious-injury rate of 11.2. That number comes into focus when compared to the rates in the overall forestry sector, of 5.2 and 1.3 respectively.

Even with the gains that have been made in recent years through prevention efforts and advancing technology, these claims have cost the industry more than \$100 million in the last decade and a half. For the 18,500 workers in the forestry sector and their 4,500-plus employers, the human and economic costs are far too high.

With this in mind, WorkSafeBC recently introduced a targeted falling team as part of its Forestry High Risk Strategy for 2018-20. The team is comprised of

four officers dedicated to hand-falling inspection, a team lead, and a manager of interest. All team members have extensive falling experience and have served as certified fallers, qualified supervisor and new faller trainers, with a combined 12 decades of industry experience. All are passionate about the team's central mission, which is working with industry to reduce the injury rate among fallers.

Launched in April 2018, the team spans the province geographically, with officers based in Nelson, Port Moody, Kamloops, and Terrace. Team Lead Terry Anonson works from Courtenay and travels province-wide based out of Fort St. John.

These officers will inspect falling operations, consult with employers, educate workers and supervisors, audit compliance, and enforce relevant regulations.

They will also mentor and support other WorkSafeBC officers working within forestry, thereby helping to ensure consistency of knowledge and inspections across British Columbia.

Last year alone, manual tree falling and bucking generated 452 WorkSafeBC inspection reports. One of the most frequently cited regulations (with 40 mentions) was OHS 26.24: Responsibility for Falling and Bucking, which outlines safe procedures before, during, and after a tree is felled. Many of these orders revolved around incorrect undercuts, inadequate risk assessment, and failure to escape at least 10 feet from the base of the tree as it began to fall.

As a result, the focus of the team's inspections in 2018 will be: falling practices, danger-tree management, and escaping a safe distance from the base of the

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.**

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TLA
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ASSOCIATION



WORKSAFE BC
WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

tree and phase congestion, which can negatively impact fallers or cause falling activities to endanger other workers. Inspections will encompass not just harvesting operations, but any falling operation in BC, including oil and gas worksites and wildfire management. This focus will ensure all employers, at all levels of the worksite, are fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure hand falling is conducted in a safe manner.

In addition, team members will engage with fallers and industry employers, looking for feedback and suggestions. They will work to identify gaps in existing health and safety management systems, and address those gaps by way of consultation, collaboration, and enforcement.

With this initiative WorkSafeBC wants to move toward compliance that is sustainable over the long term. Team members will spend the time necessary with workers, supervisors and owners to make sure they have a sustainable program of compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, the *Workers Compensation Act* and the BC Faller Training Standard—the keystone requirements for reducing hand-faller injuries.

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Top 10 Regulation Subsections Cited

Order Cited	Times Written
OHS7.8	69
OHS26.24	40
OHS8.25	16
OHS26.2	11
OHS3.16	10
OHS26.26	6
OHS8.12	4
OHS4.3	4
OHS3.15	4
OHS26.65	4
All Others	47
Total:	215

WorkSafeBC

2017 Manual Tree Falling and Bucking: Top 10 Regulation subsections cited

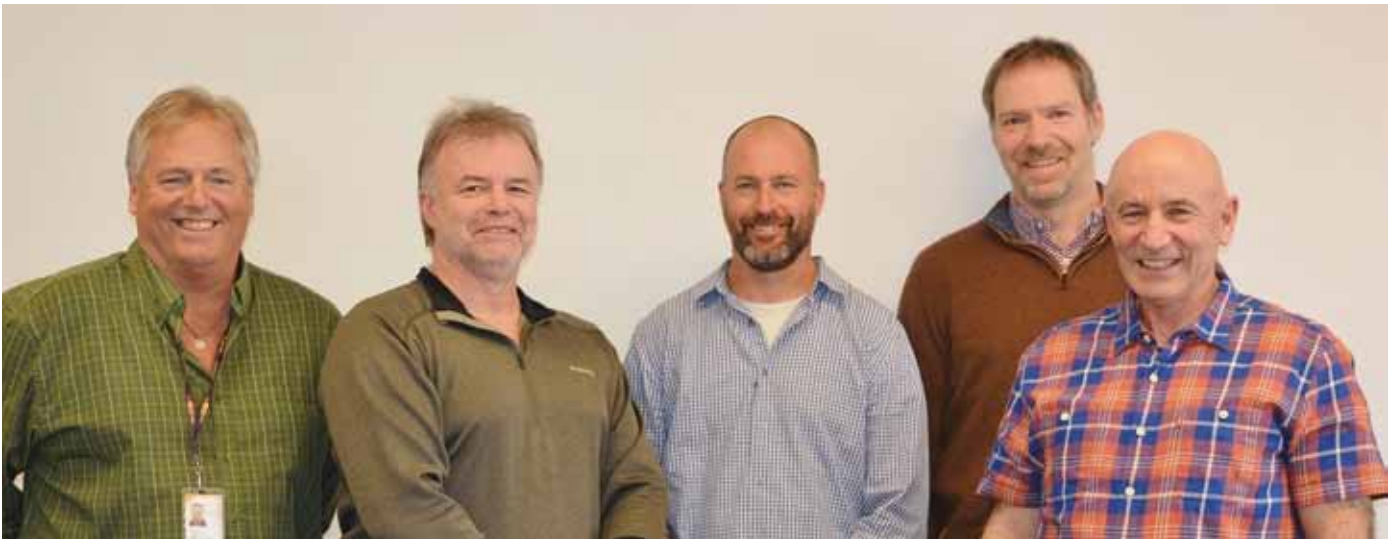
Wildfires spread fast.

Ensure you can get your crew out safely.

Include wildfire evacuation as part of your emergency response plan. Every minute counts.

Find resources at worksafebc.com/forestry.

WORK SAFE BC



From left: Terry Anonson, Kevin Legros, Dean Redknap, Chris Miller, and Budd Phillips. (Missing is Dave Bedard.)

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We hope and expect that this team will contribute to a measurable reduction in injuries, serious injuries, and fatalities among hand fallers in the years to come.

Team members

Dave Bedard, Forestry OSO (Nelson)
Southern Interior/Vancouver Island/
South and Central Coast

Chris Miller, OSO (Port Moody)
Lower Mainland/Vancouver Island/
South and Central Coast

Dean Redknap,
Forestry OSO (Kamloops)
Thompson Okanagan/Central Interior/
Wildfire

Kevin Legros, Forestry OSO (Terrace)
Northern Interior/Haida Gwaii/North
Coast/Oil & Gas

Terry Anonson, Team Lead, Provincial
Budd Phillips,
Manager of Interest, Provincial

*Budd Phillips is a Prevention Field Services
Manager for WorkSafeBC. He can be reached
at budd.phillips@worksafebc.com.*

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