



# WORKSAFEBC FORESTRY HIGH RISK STRATEGY UPDATE FOR 2017

By Budd Phillips

The 2017 Forestry High Risk Strategy (FHRS) represents the fourth year of a five-year strategic plan focusing on the four harvesting activities carrying the highest risks: manual tree falling, mechanized harvesting, cable-yarding operations, and log transportation. (Silviculture is included as a secondary focus of the FHRS, given the high number of serious injuries it generates.)

According to WorkSafeBC data, within these four categories the types of work with the highest injury risk are: cable or hi-lead logging, ground skidding, horse logging, log loading, log processing, manual tree falling and bucking, mechanized tree falling, helicopter logging, log hauling and integrated forest management.

The attached table details the harvesting activities that WorkSafeBC prevention officers will evaluate to ensure employers and workers meet the require-

ments of the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*.

Through FHRS, prevention officers will conduct short, focused inspections that target specific issues and are planned in advance to allow for better scheduling and adequate lead time. The ultimate goal of inspections is to reduce serious injury and fatal injury rates in the areas with the highest risk to forestry workers.

## FHRS Updates For 2017

While it's important FHRS continues along a steady course to reinforce priority safety messaging, newly available data and observations also call for adaptations along the way. For example, "roadside debris" was added to the manual-falling category as a new inspection focus in 2017.

The 2017 strategy also called for updates to the compliance workbooks in-

troduced in 2016 that are completed when a high-risk violation occurs. The revised workbook aims to improve outcomes and allow for a better process for mining data and analyzing trends so officers can better target critical areas.

WorkSafeBC is also undertaking a review of all new faller-training sites, including those operated by industry partners, to ensure training is delivered in a compliant and safe manner for students and instructors.

Finally, the Steep Slope Logging Inspection Checklist has been revised to include the new traction assist harvesting methods increasingly used in BC.

## Seeing Results From FHRS

The results of our High Risk Strategy continue to be encouraging, though fluctuations in the short term are to be expected. Injury rates for hand falling dropped from 29.5 in 2015 to 27.3 in 2016, and

Chart: WorkSafeBC

Harvesting Phase	Mech. Injury/Area of Risk	Inspection Focus
Manual Falling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of tree (falling cuts)</li> <li>Risk assessment (windfall, danger tree, etc.)</li> <li>Brushing</li> <li>Road/skid trail debris hazards</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falling cuts</li> <li>Danger tree and windfall assessment and plans</li> <li>Unnecessary brushing practices</li> <li>New faller training locations</li> <li>Roadside debris endangering workers</li> </ol>
Mechanized Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance work</li> <li>Getting off and on machinery</li> <li>Equipment—loss of stability</li> <li>Congestion</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance work plan and lockout</li> <li>Three Point Contact procedures</li> <li>Steep slope assessment plans</li> <li>Site planning and layout</li> </ol>
Cable Yarding Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Struck by Logs</li> <li>Slips and Falls</li> <li>Congestion</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearing the turn</li> <li>Yarding angles</li> <li>Landing the log</li> <li>Site planning and layout</li> </ol>
Log Transporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MVAs</li> <li>Loading and unloading activities</li> <li>Maintenance Work</li> <li>MSI shoulder injuries</li> <li>Proper use and installation of Binders</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driving and Road Assessment</li> <li>Loading, off-loading and securing of load</li> <li>Best practices for maintenance work (lock out, access and egress)</li> <li>Cab Guards</li> <li>Binder use and installation</li> </ol>
Silviculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor Vehicle accidents</li> <li>Lack of ERP/Practice</li> <li>Lack of adequate MSI risk assessment/Management Program</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ERP elements</li> <li>Planning and conducting operations</li> <li>Driver training/policies</li> <li>MSI Risk Assessment/Management/Education</li> </ol>

rates for the various forms of mechanical harvesting and mechanical ground skidding operations have also declined, some significantly. While the injury rate for cable harvesting has declined since 2012, it continues to present challenges, as do log hauling and tree planting, the injury rates for which have increased slightly in that same timeframe.

### Looking Forward to 2018

In 2018, our strategy will continue to hone in on the areas that generate the highest claim numbers and present the greatest levels of risk. Next year will see the introduction of an advanced, in-the-field training course for prevention officers in log transportation, following the successful implementation of an advanced hands-on course in manual falling for prevention officers in 2017. The goal of this training is to augment the knowledge of forestry prevention officers and support consistency of inspections across the province.▲

---

*Budd Phillips is a Prevention Field Services Manager for WorkSafeBC. He can be reached at [budd.phillips@worksafebc.com](mailto:budd.phillips@worksafebc.com).*

(Continued from page 14)

home. It also means that they have a solid process by which to further strengthen their partnerships with Indigenous peoples and that species-at-risk and special ecosystems are preserved with a coordinated and effective approach to implementation on the ground.

Last, but not least, companies must be able to innovate. Spurred by investment, they must also have a tax environment conducive to continue to pay British Columbians good, living-wage jobs while offering sustainable, superior products at prices their customers are willing to pay in comparison to competitors worldwide from other jurisdictions with lower costs of doing business. Such an environment increases the attractiveness of coastal BC for investors boosting investment in technology and operations. Coastal forestry must continue to find ways to further utilize forest residues in an economically viable manner. Finally, government policy must support ongoing initiatives which are of central importance to the industry in growing market access worldwide and product offerings from the BC coast.

Creating investment certainty is key to ensuring the global competitiveness of coastal forestry in BC and the jobs, economy and growth and expansion of our world-class sustainable forest management practices. With a new provincial government now in place, BC's coastal forest industry is looking forward to collaboration that will build further understanding and development of government policy that supports investment and the prosperity of BC. The first step to a better tomorrow is made today.▲

---

*Rick Jeffery is the President and CEO of Coast Forest Products Association.*

# Show Your Pride In Forestry!

Post a photo of your sticker on your truck, laptop, yarder, etc!

Tag it: **#forestryfeedsmyfamily**

