

## SAFER Leadership Conference



Former NHL great Ryan Walter describes to approximately 100 forest industry Health and Safety Representatives from both the union and management ranks how teams become high performing at the successful SAFER Health and Safety Leadership Conference in Burnaby, BC on October 3rd.

SAFER co-chairs Pat McGregor from USW local 1-423 and Ryan Johnson of Tolko Industries opened the conference by explaining that the theme of the SAFER conference was leadership and the need for joint health and safety committees to take the forest industry health and safety to the next level. It was pointed out that after a number of years of significant improvement, we have seen very little improvement in the health and safety performance in the last couple of years.

USW Wood Council Chair Bob Matters welcomed the participants by thanking them for stepping up to sit on their committees. Bob told the conference of his time as a health and safety committee representative and also pointed out that CEOs are now seeing that they have an instrumental role in workplace health and safety in the forest industry, which not too many years ago wasn't the case.

Bruce Jackson from WorkSafeBC explained the new regulations that will affect health and safety committees.

The changes are primarily in response to the Coroner's inquest recommendations into the deaths of Glenn Roche and Alan Little as the result of the 2012 Prince George mill explosion.



Jane Lindstrom from the Redshirt Foundation described some of the learnings from their research into workplace violence in BC sawmills.

The new regulations include the development of an evaluation tool, mandatory minimum training and the clarification of the committee's role in the investigation process.

## Coming Events

November 1-2 BCFSC Small Employer OHS Training, Cranbrook, BC  
November 2-4 BCFSC Forest Supervisor Training, Prince George, BC  
November 7-9 USW District 3 HSE Conference, Winnipeg, MB  
November 16-18 BCFSC Forest Supervisor Training, Vernon, BC  
December 5-9 BCFSC Falling Supervisor Training, Nanaimo, BC

### What Workplace Programs Help Prevent Upper Extremity Musculoskeletal Disorders?

Upper extremity musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) include painful conditions and injuries of the muscles, tendons, joints and nerves that affect the neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists and hands. In Canada, upper extremity MSDs and low-back pain are the leading causes of disabling work-related injuries.

The review team recommends implementing a workplace-based resistance training exercise program, based on strong evidence that these programs can help prevent and manage upper extremity musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and symptoms.

The team suggests practitioners consider the following practices, if applicable to the work context, based on moderate evidence that these practices can help prevent and manage upper extremity MSDs and symptoms: stretching exercise programs, workstation forearm supports and vibration feedback on mouse use. [Full Report](#)



Paul Krismer told the SAFER conference that scientific studies demonstrate that positive emotions in the workplace are directly linked to better outcomes such as improved productivity and profitability, reductions in absenteeism, and superior safety results.

Ryan Walter drew on his Stanley Cup winning 15 seasons as an NHL player, subsequent broad-casting career and NHL coaching experience to share the successful strategies that must be applied in order for great performance to be achieved. He lead a lively discussion on leadership development.



Ryan Walter lead the SAFER participants on a exercise that highlighted the importance of communication and team building.

# HAZARD ALERT

**Injury: Fatal**

**Industry: Forestry, Trucking**

**Core Activity: Log hauling**

A fully loaded, quad-style logging truck went off a forestry road and down a steep bank before rolling over onto its roof. The driver was found deceased.

**Injury: Temporary loss of consciousness**

**Industry: Wood & Paper Products**

**Core Activity: Sawmill**

A young worker piling lumber on the green chain was struck by a piece of wood ejected from beneath the tire of a logging truck passing the worker's station.

**Injury: Fatal**

**Industry: Forestry**

**Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking**

A certified faller (a young worker) was falling a dead danger tree within standing timber. The danger tree hit a green tree. The top of the danger tree buckled back and hit the faller.

**Injury: Close call**

**Industry: Wood & Paper Products**

**Core Activity: Sawmill**

A welder was arc-gouging (using air) the side of a conveyor in a sawmill. No watch person was assisting to check for sparks. Sparks caused a grease/hydraulic hose to melt and catch fire. The fire spread from the conveyor area through the edger and along the ceiling. The local fire department contained and extinguished the fire.

**Injury: Close call**

**Industry: Forestry**

**Core Activity: Mechanized tree falling**

A feller buncher was swinging a cut-up tree to the low side. The feller buncher became unstable and flopped onto its side. The operator was not injured.

**Injury: Crush injuries to fingers**

**Industry: Wood & Paper Products**

**Core Activity: Sawmill**

A young worker was clearing and aligning boards at the infeed to the resaw when the worker's glove was caught in the chain drive. The worker's hand was crushed between the chain and sprocket.

**Injury: Fatal**

**Industry: Forestry, Trucking**

**Core Activity: Log hauling**

The driver of a loaded log transporter was fatally injured when the log trailer left the travelled surface of a forest service road and overturned onto the passenger side.

**Injury: Temporary loss of consciousness, laceration to head**

**Industry: Wood & Paper Products**

**Core Activity: Sawmill**

A worker was using a come-along to shorten a drive chain on a conveyor when the hook of the come-along struck the worker.

## 2016 Forest Industry Conferences

In addition to the SAFER conference, two other forest industry conferences were jointly organized by union and management representatives held in early October.

Approximately 400 delegates attended the 11th annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference held on October 1, 2016 in Nanaimo to hear diverse speakers share their unique perspectives on safety and related matters.



A moment of silence was held for 21 forestry workers who have passed away from illness and injury since last year's Vancouver Island Safety Conference.

The conference saw presentations on drug and alcohol testing in the workplace, the emotional part of employee engagement, the role of an effective supervisor in a health and safety culture and seven delusions of accident-prone organizations and seven habits of world class organizations. As well there were presentations by WorkSafeBC and the Coast Harvesting Advisory Group.



Close to 150 participants attended the Forest Industry Health and Wellness Conference in Burnaby on October 4th.

The conference was planned to give participants practical information to foster the discussion about workplace wellness in the forest industry and the potential development of workplace wellness committees.

Presentations were made on addiction and workplace, the Boil Maker union's wellness program, healthy lifestyles, return on investment for wellness programs, psychologically healthy and safe workplaces and simple steps for a longer, healthier, happier life.



Dr. Art Hister gave the Wellness Conference a humorous review of research on health and wellness

SAFER Council  
#300 3920 Norland Ave.  
Burnaby BC, V5G 4K7  
Phone 604 683 1117  
Fax 604 688 6416  
Contact: Rosanne Grazier  
rgrazier@safer.ca



SHARP Trustees  
Suite 400 - 299 Victoria St.  
Prince George, BC V2L 5B8  
Phone: (250) 564-5166  
Fax: (250) 563-3124  
Contact: Cam Meroniuk  
cam@conifer.ca