

## Tragedy in Woss



Photograph By CHEK NEWS

On April 20th three people were killed and two people were seriously injured after a Western Forest Products logging train derailed in Woss, a small logging community of approximately 200 residents located between Port McNeill and Campbell River on the north end of Vancouver Island.

Brian Butler, president of United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 said the train was carrying a large load of logs, somehow rolled away from the reload yard and collided into a rubber-tired backhoe and railway maintenance car where the five men were working. "It's a small community and there are many generations of forest workers in that community, so it's tough to deal with," Butler said.

The RCMP have ruled out obvious criminality or criminal negligence, so the investigation will now be led by the Transportation Safety Board and WorkSafe BC. Western Forest Products and the United Steelworkers will also be investigating "I think they have a stellar safety record on the rail operation, no history of safety issues and certainly nothing of this magnitude," Butler said.

Dozens of forestry workers had to spend hours working to pull logs off the trapped and injured workers. They had to do this work knowing that some of their co-workers had died and others were seriously injured.

"It was an amazing feat ... what they did, it was heroic," said Chris Cinkant, safety coordinator for United Steelworkers Local 1-1937.

Western Forest Products closed all timberlands operations Friday out of respect for employees and their families. The company said critical-incident stress counsellors are on site and available to anyone who needs help.

Dave Rushton, the community's regional elected representative and former USW Camp Chairman, said "Somehow the cars got away and ran down the track, and, of course, it's downhill. continued

## Coming Events

- May 2 BC Fed OH&S Part 1, New Westminster
- May 8-12 Faller Supervisor Training, Vernon BC
- May 9 BC Fed OH&S Part 1, Victoria BC
- May 11 BC Fed Effective Committees, Williams Lake BC

It's all gravity feed. They ended up right in behind our community here. It's amazing there wasn't more damage done." Rushton said everybody is aware of the accident and knows the victims. "We've got a couple hundred people here," Rushton said. "Everybody's in shock. We went for a long time without a lost time accident here. And now this."

Western Forest Products president and CEO Don Demens said in a statement: "At this time, we express our deepest concern and condolences to the families, friends, and co-workers of those whose lives were lost this morning and who are injured. Our hearts and minds are with them."

The company took over the historic forestry rail route in 2006. Construction of the 90-kilometre rail line started in 1917 and is now known as the Englewood Railway of Western Forest Products. It's believed to be the last operating logging railway in North America.

## SAFER Council Visits Port Alberni

The SAFER Council held their recent meeting in Port Alberni at the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences.

This was the last meeting for USW Local 1-417 representative Harbinder Hara (below centre) whose mill Tolko Merrit recently closed. Harbinder will be replaced by Doug Wood who is the 1st Vice-President and Safety Director for USW Local 1-405 which is situated in the Kootenays.

The SAFER Council sincerely appreciates Harbinder's efforts and dedication to workers health and safety. "You made a difference"



Left to right: Matt Franks, Canfor; Pat McGregor, USW 1-423; John Mountain, USW District 3; Harbinder Hara, USW 1-417; Brian Henderson, Teal Jones; John Bulcock, WFP; Doug Wood, USW 1-405 and Ryan Johnson, Tolko.



# HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Amputated finger

Industry: Manufacturing

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2017-Mar

A young worker was feeding re-edge boards onto a transfer conveyor beside the outfeed of a head rig gang saw. One of the worker's fingers contacted the unguarded chain and sprocket drive for the saw outfeed conveyor.

Injury: Close call

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2017-Mar

A grapple yarder in a forestry operation was travelling down a resource road. As the yarder passed under a transmission (high-voltage) power line, its boom came within the limits of approach. This resulted in an electrical arc between the power line and the yarder.

Injury: Crush injuries

Industry: Manufacturing

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2017-Mar

A young worker was performing routine maintenance and equipment alignment on a sawmill's sawing line. During the procedure, the equipment cycled, and the worker was injured.

Injury: Fatal

Industry: Forestry, Trucking

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Northern B.C.

Date of Incident: 2017-Feb

A loaded logging truck failed to negotiate a corner. The truck left the road surface, flipped onto its side, and spilled its load. The operator of the truck was fatally injured.

Injury: Undetermined injuries to foot

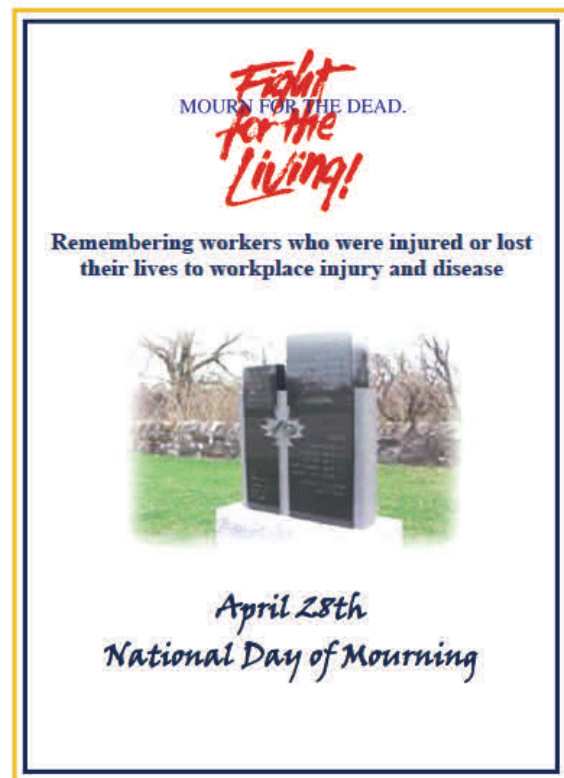
Industry: Manufacturing Core Activity: Planing mill

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2017-Feb

A worker was banding a package of lumber on the outfeed deck of an end stacker. The outfeed deck was inadvertently jogged forward, resulting in the worker's foot being caught between two packages of lumber.

## Re-Commit for Healthier & SAFER Workplaces



### SAFER Council Meeting

At the recent SAFER Council meeting the council heard from Wolfgang Zimmerman and the history of the [Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences](#). They also reviewed recent incidents in the forest industry and on going projects regarding fatigue management, first-aid course in minor wound care, inspection workshop, workplace violence, mindfulness and new worker orientation.

The Council also took some time to tour Western Forest Products Alberni Pacific Division which is a white wood mill on the Alberni inlet whose core business is in producing components for traditional Japanese home construction.



APD Health and Safety Committee Co Chair John Binng points out something to SAFER Co Chair Pat McGregor



USW District 3 HSE Coordinator Brian Harder receives his SAFER jacket after attending his 3rd meeting.

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