

Forest Industry Well Represented at Health and Safety Conferences



Approximately 400 participants attended the 12th annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference in Nanaimo. The conference is jointly organized by members of the USW, WorkSafeBC, Ministry of Forests, BCFSC, SAFER and industry employers.

This year's conference theme was the Power of the Mind-Your Brain at Work. There were presentations on Communication with different Generations, Build Psychologically Healthy Workplaces, Building Strong Teams and Managing Distraction. The silent auction raised \$2,780 which will be shared equally with the Redshirt Foundation and Kids Sport. The signed Bo Horvat jersey alone raised \$500-thanks Al. In addition the participants raised \$400.00 from the 50/50 draw that was donated to the Canadian Red Cross for BC Wildfire relief.



SAFER's Ron Corbeil presented Al Biekse from the BC Federation of Labour's Health and Safety Centre a photo from the IWA archives. Al gave an inspiring presentation on Building Psychologically Healthy Workplaces.

SAFER Representatives Present at National USW HSE Conference

SAFER Cochair and USW Local 1-423 President Pat McGregor and SAFER Advisor Ron Corbeil discussed with participants from the forest industry at the recent conference in Vancouver. ways to prevent some of the current issues in the forest industry that are contributing to workplace incidents. Issues discussed were; Workplace Design, Fatigue, Emergency Evacuation, Emergency Devices and Workplace Violence.



Coming Events

October 31 BC Fed H&S Centre Part 1, Campbell River BC
November 21 BC Fed H&S Centre Part 1, Kelowna BC
November 27 BC Fed H&S Centre Part 1, Princeton BC

SHARP Conference in Prince George

Approximately 150 forest industry participants attended the recent SHARP conference in Prince George.

The key note address was by Candace Carnahan - who as a young worker, was seriously injured in a mill accident that claimed her leg below the knee.



SHARP Trustee and USW Local 2017 President Brian O'Rourke opened the conference.

In addition there was a round table discussion on the safety culture in the forest industry. Drop it and Drive gave a thought provoking presentation on distracted driving. Eldeen Pozniak gave an humorous look at health and safety in her presentation "Shift Happens". Retired USW Local 480 member Gord Menelaws gave a heartfelt presentation on mental health in the workplace. Michael Kerr closed the conference with a presentation on how to create healthier, less stressful, more creative, and more inspiring workplaces by helping to tap into their humour resources.

SAFER Council SHARP Trustees Meet

Representatives from SAFER and SHARP recently met in Prince George to go over a number of issues that effect the entire BC forest industry.

The committees reviewed recent incidents and the need to share the information in a timely manner and how the initiative the Manufacturing Advisory Groups (MAG) is working on regarding tracking incidents will work.

They also reviewed a project on visualization and mindfulness and whether it can fit the forest industry.

A joint initiative with FP Innovations was reviewed that will look in to issues surrounding access and egress in heavy equipment. SAFER discussed an initiative they have completed on new sawmill worker orientation that will be available soon.

The two committees committed to working on a forest industry culture survey as well as working jointly on the recommendations on workplace violence that came out of the research project conducted by the Redshirt Foundation.



HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Fractured vertebrae

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Interior B.C.

During falling operations, a faller was struck and injured by a tree. The worker was transported to the local hospital in a company vehicle.

Injury: Head laceration, possible fracture to lower body

Industry: Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Northern B.C.

A planer mill worker was assisting millwrights with repairs to the planer stacker. The planer mill worker was crossing the infeed transfer chains to bring parts to the millwrights when he slipped on some grease and fell 11 feet to the concrete floor.

Injury: Close call

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

A certified faller was falling a fringe of timber near overhead 25 kV power lines, which had been de-energized before work began. The faller lost directional control of a tree and it hit the power lines. No injuries occurred.

Injury: Broken bone in lower body

Industry: Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior B.C.

A worker climbed onto the steel plate door guide (41 inches above the ground) of a railway car. The worker tried to pull the door lever down into the locked position and fell.

Injury: Multiple injuries

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern B.C.

A worker was repositioning a hydraulic excavator (a mobile tail spar), used for log yarding activities, when the machine slid over the edge of an 80 percent grade. The machine rolled several times, coming to rest on its side about 300 feet downhill. The worker was ejected from the cab and was found about 40 feet from the machine.

Injury: Close call

Industry: Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Interior B.C.

A forklift without a load was travelling down a slightly sloped, paved storage area when it made a sharp turn that caused the forklift to tip onto its side. The operator was wearing a seat belt and was not injured.

10 Percent Increase in Motor Vehicle Casualty Crashes When Driving too Fast for Road Conditions

Last winter's extreme conditions contributed to a 10 percent increase in motor vehicle casualty crashes in B.C. between October and December, where driving too fast for the conditions was a contributing factor. This is a 10 percent increase from 2015, when 570 casualty crashes occurred, as compared to 626 in 2016.

For those who drive for work, October, November and December are the most dangerous months. Almost 30 percent of all work-related crashes resulting in injury and time-loss claims occur during these three months.

In December 2016 alone, WorkSafeBC claims from crashes that resulted in injuries and lost time from work were 38 percent higher than in December 2015.

The Winter Driving Safety Alliance advises all drivers to prepare now to stay safe on the roads this winter:

- Don't go - If conditions are bad, postpone your trip if possible.
- Plan your trip - If you have to travel, check road and weather conditions and select the safest route. Give yourself extra time to get to your destination to avoid rushing, and have an emergency plan if you get stuck.
- Prepare your vehicle - Install a set of four matched winter tires and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Every year, be sure to give your vehicle a pre-season maintenance check-up.
- Slow down and drive to the conditions - Even the most confident and seasoned drivers are at risk in hazardous road conditions. Slow down to match road conditions and maintain a safe following distance, at least four seconds, between you and the vehicle ahead.

For more information about what you can do to stay safe while driving this winter, visit ShiftIntoWinter.ca.

One-in-Five Traffic Fatalities in B.C. Occur in Crashes Involving Large Commercial Vehicles

In a province-wide campaign launched recently, drivers are being urged to take extra precautions around large trucks to reduce crashes that result in a significant number of fatalities each year in British Columbia. The Be Truck Aware campaign – led by an alliance of B.C. road safety stakeholders – coincides with Operation Safe Driver week, a continent-wide initiative in which police and Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement (CVSE) officers will be ticketing drivers of both cars and trucks for failing to share the road and follow safe driving practices.

Across North America, studies have shown that in car-truck crashes, occupants of the passenger vehicle are at far greater risk of being killed than the driver of the truck, and that the majority of fatal car-truck crashes are caused by passenger vehicle drivers. More gov.bc.ca/betruckaware

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