



SAFER Develops Young and New Sawmill Worker Orientation Program

COURSE OVERVIEW



In this presentation, we will take a look at each of the following topics:



In 2014 members of the SAFER Council participated in the coroner's inquest into the death of a young sawmill worker. The young worker was part of a graveyard clean-up crew that worked on week-ends.

One of the recommendations that the coroners' jury made was directed to WorkSafeBC and the forest industry.

The recommendation was to review and research with industry new training styles/curriculum for young/new workers.

The rationale for this recommendation was that the jury heard evidence that revealed the students found the training somewhat abstract and challenging as it was initially based on materials on paper. Subsequent orientation tours were helpful as they included a direct visual observation of various mill features. It was heard that computerized video means of training may well prove more effective.

We know starting a first job, changing to a new job, or re-entering the workforce is both an exciting and risky period for new and young workers. Exposure to workplace hazards for possibly the first time makes this new and young worker group especially vulnerable to injury.

While a comprehensive orientation and training program is required under section 3.23 of the Regulation, it's also essential to helping workers start their jobs off right. Investing in training your workers can result in higher productivity, raised morale, and a stronger sense of loyalty to your firm. It's an investment that makes good business sense.

The SAFER Council working with WorkSafeBC and Tolko industries wanted to develop something that is easily.....

Coming Events

January 11-12 USW Local 1-423 Conference, Kelowna BC

January 17-20 Truck Loggers Convention, Victoria BC

January 27 BCFSC Owner Operator OHS Refresher

.....accessible with no cost that can assist all sawmill employers in the province.

This orientation program is intended to help you:

- Meet the regulatory requirements for new and young worker orientation and training;
- Become familiar with our many web and technology-based tools and resources to engage new and young workers;
- Provide direction on delivering the Orientation Presentation and the additional remaining orientation training requirements;
- Make your new and young worker orientation and training programs more effective and engaging.

SAFER Council union co-chair, Pat McGregor said, "we see young workers entering the workforce who communicate a lot differently than when I started in the industry. It is important that new and young workers get their job duties, rights and responsibilities explained to them in a way that they understand". He added, "if workers don't understand the job or don't feel comfortable doing it, it is important that they report it to their supervisor immediately".

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation defines a "young worker" as any worker under age 25. A "new worker" can be any age and includes those who are new to the workplace or location, or facing new hazards.

SAFER Council management co-chair, Ryan Johnson said, "this orientation package is just the beginning. We expect that once the workers are given the overview-they will be given further job task specific orientation on the plant floor and demonstrate to the supervisor that they understand the task".

The program, which can be found on the SAFER website, is designed to be delivered with company specific materials and has a guidebook complete with questions that can be followed for the most effective delivery.

The SAFER Council is working on a new and young worker orientation program for the harvesting sector and hope to have it completed something in 2018.

View our [SAFER New Worker Module](#).

View our [New Worker Orientation Guidebook](#)



HAZARD ALERT

Injury Type: Fatal

Core Activity: Log hauling

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

An unloaded logging truck rounded a turn and ran into an area of the road that had been eroded by heavy rains. The truck veered into standing water and was completely submerged. The driver was unable to escape from the cab.

Injury: Lacerated hand

Industry: Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior B.C.

As a young worker was operating a 12-inch trim saw, one of the worker's hands contacted the rotating blade.

Injury: Fatal

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Mechanized tree falling

Location: Northern B.C.

A worker was operating a feller-buncher (harvester used in logging) on a slope, cutting timber at the boundary of a cut block, when the machine fell over backward. A fire ensued and the operator was unable to escape.

Injury: Suspected fractures to arm

Industry: Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture

Location: Lower Mainland

A worker standing next to a metal feed conveyor was turning sheets of plywood when the worker's arm was drawn into the rollers of the conveyor.

Injury: Fatal

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Integrated forest management

Location: Northern B.C.

A worker driving a company pickup truck to work on a gravel road lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle left the road, entered a ditch, and rolled over. The driver was ejected from the vehicle. A passing log transporter operator stopped and called 911. The worker received first aid at the scene and was transported to hospital, but later succumbed to his injuries.

Injury: Close call

Industry: Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Sawmill

Location: Interior B.C.

A fire was discovered at the hog/chip conveyor of a sawmill which was not operating at the time. The local fire department, BC Forest Service firefighters, and a helicopter with a water bucket extinguished the fire. Fire damage was confined to the components of the hog/chip conveyor. No injuries reported.

SAFER Council Plans For 2018

The SAFER Council recently met with representation from SHARP to review 2017 activities and to draw up plans for 2018.

The Council discussed recent incidents reported to WorkSafeBC. A recent logging truck fatality where the road conditions were poor was discussed. We also noticed a number of incidents where wearing a seat belt could have mitigated the outcome and one where the wearing of the seat belt possibly saved a life.

The recent feller buncher incident is the fourth of this type in the past 10 years where an operator couldn't escape the cab of the machine and discussed the research into egress.

It was pointed out there were very few incidents in manufacturing..

We also reviewed:

- Piloting the new sawmill inspection workshop,
- Review Minor Wound Care,
- Reviewing the new and young sawmill worker orientation program,
- Review of wellness initiatives,
- Review of bucking video,
- The access/egress research with FP Innovations,

The SAFER Council identified the following initiatives for 2018:

- Planning for a SAFER Conference for the fall of 2018,
- Explore and develop training materials for the Mindfulness process,
- Participation in the forest industry forums,
- Develop a new and young worker logging orientation program,
- Work with SHARP and the BCFSC on a sawmill perception survey,
- Work with SHARP on the Redshirt Foundation research recommendations, starting with the development of training,
- Investigate processes for the better identification of workplace hazards,
- Participating in the wellness conference in the fall of 2018.

John Mountain Retires



The SAFER Council wants to thank John for all his assistance over the years and wishes him a long and happy retirement.

Are You Ready For Winter Driving?

Before heading out in unfavourable conditions ask yourself if the trip can be delayed. If you must go:

- Visit DriveBC.ca for current road and weather conditions.
- Visit ShiftIntoWinter.ca for tips on ways to prepare yourself and your vehicle.
- Ensure someone knows your trip route and expected arrival time.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly equipped.

[For more information](#)



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Merry Christmas & A Happy & Safe New Year