



## SAFER Conference Planning is Well Underway



**SAFER Co-Chair Pat McGregor promotes well trained and engaged health and safety committees for better workplace safety.**

The 2018 SAFER Conference planning is well underway. The conference will be held September 28th at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo.

Themed “Safety Excellence - Building SAFER Safety Systems”, the Bi-annual SAFER Health and Safety Conference is targeted at the forest industry health and safety leaders.

Ryan Johnson, the SAFER management Co-Chair said;” ideally we will attract union and management health and safety committee members as well as senior union and management representatives with a responsibility for the health and safety of forest industry workers”.

The conference organizing committee is putting together a list of speakers and presenters that can give the skills to representatives from both forest manufacturing and harvesting operations to ensure they have excellent safety systems in place.

Pat McGregor; the SAFER union Co-Chair believes one of the most effective ways to ensure healthy and safe workplaces is by having well trained and engaged health and safety committees. McGregor said; “unfortunately every year we hear of incidents where the hazardous situation was just missed, didn’t see them as a potential hazard. Our hope is that this conference will give health and safety leaders the tools to recognize hazards before they injure one of our members”.

The planning committee chose the date and venue so conference participants can also attend the highly popular Vancouver Island Safety Conference the following day.

There is no charge for SAFER and SHARP members for the conferences. These conferences are very popular so watch for the registration for both events which will be available soon.

## Coming Events

March 26-30 USW International HSE Conference, Pittsburgh Pa.

March 27 BC Fed. H&S Centre OH&S Part 1, Haida Gwaii BC

April 4-6 BCFSC Basic Forest Supervisor, Cranbrook BC

## SAFER Working on Mindfulness for the Forest Industry

We are hearing more and more about mindfulness these days. Professional athletes practice it. Mindfulness simply put is the paying attention in a particular way, on purpose and in the present moment. The SAFER Council is looking at how mindfulness might benefit the forest industry.

The SAFER Council working with positive psychology expert Paul Krismer are looking to introduce training in the near future.

Falling contractor Steve Venus pointed out that the most important thing going on for any faller is his mental state. “Does he have a clear mind? Is he focused on his job? Is he identifying the hazards that could get him hurt? When we start adding things to that with other phases of logging—stopping a faller so equipment can get through his signs or if there are other people working in the block—we’re taking away something very important, and breaking his concentration.

“Fallers fire up their power saw and enter a zone,” explains Venus. “The guys with 30-plus years of safe falling will tell you the most important thing wasn’t necessarily always getting 10 feet away from the stump of every tree—the most important thing is that their mind was clear and focused every day.”

Staying focused on the job is important for all workers. It is even more important for those who work in the forest industry due to the inherent hazards of the jobs.



**Paul Krismer says when mindfulness is seamlessly woven into safety systems, break through injury performance is possible. Workers do NOT need to sit in lotus position in order to benefit from mindfulness cues.**



**Steve Venus from Blue Thunder Falling says the most important thing going on for any faller is his mental state.**



# HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Fractured arm  
 Industry: Forestry  
 Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking  
 Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
 Date of Incident: 2018-Feb

A faller had just finished a backcut and was moving along the escape trail to a safe location when a tree limb (20 feet by 3 inches) fell and struck him. The faller was transported to hospital by a crew boat, then a company vehicle.

Injury: Injury to hand  
 Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products  
 Core Activity: Sawmill  
 Location: Lower Mainland  
 Date of Incident: 2018-Jan

A worker was dressing the upper flywheel of a band saw with a fixed grinder. The worker's gloved hand was pulled between the grinding wheel and the flywheel by the grinding wheel.

Injury: Crush injuries  
 Industry: Forestry  
 Core Activity: Integrated forest management  
 Location: Northern B.C.  
 Date of Incident: 2018-Jan

A worker was checking the operation of the motor on a feller-buncher. The engine compartment hood (weighing about 1,000 pounds) fell, striking the worker and trapping the worker between the hood and the top of the engine. The worker was treated on site by a Level 3 first aid attendant, then transported by ETV and ambulance to hospital.

Injury: Close call  
 Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products  
 Core Activity: Pressed board manufacturer  
 Location: Interior B.C.  
 Date of Incident: 2018-Jan

A flash fire and deflagration occurred within a wood pelletter and material infeed conveyor. The material conveyor system and pelleters were damaged. No injuries occurred.

Injury: Fractured vertebrae  
 Industry: Forestry  
 Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking  
 Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.  
 Date of Incident: 2017-Dec

A faller was hand-falling old-growth trees. The faller was struck by a top portion of a small-diameter tree that had been brushed and broken off its base by adjacent falling activities. The faller was attended to by a level 3 first aid attendant, then transported to hospital by helicopter.

Injury: Fatal  
 Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products  
 Core Activity: Veneer or plywood manufacture  
 Location: Lower Mainland  
 Date of Incident: 2018-Jan

A worker removed a metal panel while responding to a fire in a wood chipper. The panel struck and fatally injured the worker.

## USW Local 1-423 Reviews SAFER Initiatives

SAFER Advisor Ron Corbeil was recently invited to USW Local 1-423's annual health and safety school to make a presentation on last year's SAFER initiatives and to look for input into the 2018 plan.



Close to 100 participants reviewed the 2017 initiatives:

- Identify and Review Forest Industry Serious Injuries
- Pilot new sawmill inspection workshop,
- Minor Wound Care,
- New and Young sawmill worker orientation program,
- Wellness initiatives,
- Access/Egress research with FP Innovations,

The participants provided input into 2018 initiatives:

- SAFER Conference for the fall of 2018,
- 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 workplace violence research recommendations,
- Investigate processes for the better identification of workplace hazards.

## SAFER Looking into Visual Literacy

Representatives from SAFER recently attended a workshop on visual literacy at the Toledo Art Museum. The SAFER Council has been looking into methods to help the forest industry better identify potential hazards—visual literacy may help.

The connection between visual literacy and safety has two important applications – with hazard recognition and incident investigation.

The visual literacy framework for overcoming biases, blind spots and gaining a fresh perspective involves six steps:

look; observe; see; interpret; analyze; and describe. You look, observe and see in order to describe, analyze and interpret.

The Toledo Museum of Art has recently announced the launch of a dedicated enterprise focused on the delivery of its visual literacy curriculum for industrial applications.

We plan to have information on Visual Literacy at the SAFER conference in September.



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