SAFER
Safety Advisory Foundation for Education & Research

the SAFER WORKPLACE

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HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS FOR FOREST INDUSTRY WORKERS

SHARP
Safety/Health Awareness Research Program

SAFER Workplace Violence Workshops

The recent SAFER/Redshirt workplace violence workshop was held in Nanaimo on April 30th which coincided with the 5th anniversary of the tragic shooting at the WFP Nanaimo sawmill. The workshop was very well received by the union and management participants,

SAFER partnered with the BC Federation of Labour's Health and Safety Centre to develop a workshop that could be delivered to BC sawmill employees. SAFER is continuing the great work of the Redshirt Foundation to help sawmill employees identify potential hazards in the workplace, conduct risk assessments and recommend corrective actions as they pertain to workplace violence. SAFER is hosting workshops in Salmon Arm with Gorman Brothers Lumber employees on June 11 and in Armstrong with Tolko employees on June 12.

Visual Literacy Workshops

Colin Duncan, the Managing Director with the Center of Visual Expertise (COVE) based in Toledo Ohio (seen above at the 2018 SAFER Conference) will facilitate a workshop on how Visual Literacy can be used to better identify occupational hazards that could lead to incidents. The workshops will be held in Nanaimo on June 24 and Kelowna on June 26. There is no charge for SAFER members. To register contact SAFER at info@safer.ca

Coming Events

June 11 Workplace Violence Workshop, Salmon Arm BC
June 12 Workplace Violence Workshop, Kelowna
June 24 Visual Literacy Workshop, Nanaimo BC
June 26 Visual Literacy Workshop, Kelowna BC

SAFER Research

In response to a number of logging truck incidents where the truck cab guard failed, SAFER has applied to WorkSafeBC for funding from their Innovation at Work program to look at ways of improving logging truck driver safety.
If successful SAFER will be partnering with the university of Oregon on the project which is entitled "Energy absorbing cab guards for log trucks".
The objectives of this project are;

1) to determine under what conditions the existing guidance for the design of cab guards on logging trucks is sufficient when considering impact, and
2) to design a log truck cab guard that is able to absorb a sufficient portion of the kinetic energy of the logs during impact to ensure the loads on the cab guard structural elements and the connections to the truck frame remain below the design limits.

HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Injuries to lower body
Industry: Forestry
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
A faller was struck from behind by a hemlock log (27 feet long, 18 inches in diameter). The faller was positioned below a stump that the hemlock was behind and was bucking a tree (24 inches in diameter). The cut on the lower log was completed and the log dropped. The uphill hemlock moved over the stump and struck the faller from behind.

Injury: Close call
Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products
Core Activity: Sawmill
Location: Interior B.C.
A fire occurred in the dust collection system for a debarker line in a sawmill. The fire was confined to the piping of the dust collection system by the automatic fire suppression and did not enter the baghouse. The fire continued to burn in built-up dust accumulations inside the piping and was extinguished by the local fire department.

Injury: Multiple fractures
Industry: Forestry
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
A faller had just felled a cedar tree (4 feet in diameter) and had moved to a safe location. After waiting several seconds and assessing the canopy, the faller took a few steps and reassessed the canopy. Not observing any hazards, the faller started walking and was struck by a cedar limb.

Injury: Injury to head
Industry: Forestry
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
A faller had made the falling cuts in a second-growth Douglas fir tree (33 inches in diameter). As the tree was falling, the faller was struck by a 12-foot-long, 3-inch-diameter branch from that tree.

Injury: Fatal
Industry: Forestry
Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
A faller was struck by a tree that fell unexpectedly due to its root system being compromised by active hand falling activities. The faller succumbed to his injuries.

Heat Stress

Our bodies naturally maintain a temperature between 36°C and 38°C. Sweating cools our bodies down, but if you work in a hot environment this might not be enough. If your body heats up faster than it can cool itself, you experience heat stress. This can lead to serious heat disorders and potential injury.

The dangers to workers
As a worker's body heats up it loses fluids and salt through sweat. As workers dehydrate they are less able to cool themselves down. Workers in a hot environment should be aware of these warning signs of heat stress:

- Excessive sweating
- Dizziness
- Nausea

If heat stress is not recognized and treated early, it can lead to heat disorders, which have serious effects on the body.

How to protect workers
The most effective way to reduce the risk of heat stress is to eliminate the source of exposure. If that's not possible, there are other risk controls to use. When choosing risk controls, start by asking yourself the questions in the following steps, which are listed in order of effectiveness:

1. Eliminating the hazard by substituting a safer process or material, where possible, is the most effective control.
   A question to consider:
   Can the job be done in a cooler environment?
2. Making physical modifications to facilities, equipment and processes can reduce exposure. Some questions to consider:
   - Can ventilation be improved?
   - Can hot surfaces be insulated or covered to reduce radiant heat?
   - Can shields and barriers be installed to protect workers from heat?
   - Can humidity be reduced?
3. Changing work practices and work policies, awareness tools, and training can limit the risk of heat stress. Some questions to consider:
   - Can warning signs be posted in the work area?
   - Can cool-down rooms be provided?
   - Can workers be acclimated to heat?
   - Can water be provided?
4. Personal protective equipment is the least effective control. It must always be used in addition to at least one other control. Some questions to consider:
   - Do workers have heat-reflective clothing or water-cooled suits?
   - Has personal protective equipment been tested to make sure it is working properly?

For more information: Preventing Heat Stress at Work

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