



## SAFER Visual Literacy Workshops



The SAFER Council recently sponsored two Visual Literacy workshops in Nanaimo and Kelowna. Colin Duncan from COVE facilitated the workshop. In the Nanaimo workshop, seen above, 24 union and management participants from both harvesting and manufacturing attended.

We are bombarded by millions of pieces of data every minute but can only deal with a small percentage. At any given moment you are only seeing 10% of what you think you're seeing; the remaining 90% is filled in by our brain. This innate coping mechanism can inevitably lead to errors that are caused by bias, assumption, and miscommunication. And these errors can lead to serious injury or death.



In Kelowna seen above, 24 participants from forest manufacturing H&S committees attended.

If workers "see" an environment in its totality, they theoretically can spot potential hazards and imagine what can happen from those hazards. Having this ability to "see" potential hazards helps workers to be proactive about their work spaces and take action to mitigate hazards before they can cause an incident. SAFER partnered with the Centre For Visual Literacy (COVE) to deliver the workshops.

They focused on the principles of Visual Literacy to help identify hazards in the workplace using examples from both the mills and the harvesting.

COVE has worked with some of the biggest corporations in North America including Walmart, Cummins and Owens Corning.

Case studies have proven that employees are able to identify a substantial amount of hazards that have previously been missed.

COVE invites you to learn more about the science of Visual Literacy and how it can transform and enhance the way you look at workplace safety. [For More Information](#)

## Coming Events

October 5, 2019 VISC, Nanaimo, BC

October 10, 2019 WorkSafeBC Ergonomics Forum, Richmond BC

### VISC 2019 - 14th Annual Vancouver Island Safety Conference October 5, 2019 - Nanaimo, BC - Vancouver Island Conference Centre

### Succeeding in Today's Evolving Work Environment



Keynote conference presenters will provide the latest information on topics ranging from change management to mental health. The conference will continue to have shorter, high impact sessions. Presenters will have booths at the trade show to allow time for one on one interactions or follow up questions.

Keynote speakers for 2019:

- Mark Devolder - Change Management
- Dr. Ray Baker - Drugs and Alcohol
- Jennifer Sparks - Mental Health

The conference planning committee is made up of representatives from Labour, Industry, Government, BC Forest Safety and WorkSafeBC. Generous sponsorships from industry, WorkSafeBC and other organizations allow for free admission for delegates.

Refreshments and lunch are provided.

Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the Loaves and Fishes food bank.

[On Line Registration](#)

### WorkSafeBC Improves Access to Occupational Health & Safety Information

WorkSafeBC is making it easier for employers and workers to access occupational health and safety information through an expansion of its Prevention Information Line, a toll-free phone service dedicated to health and safety in B.C. workplaces. People in the Lower Mainland can call 604.276.3100 or toll-free at 1.888.621.SAFE from anywhere in Canada. The line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [For More Information](#)



# HAZARD ALERT

**Injury:** Multiple injuries to upper body

**Industry:** Forestry

**Core Activity:** Manual tree falling and bucking

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Jul

A hand faller had just cleared to a safe location after falling a cedar tree (24 inches in diameter). The faller waited several seconds, then took a step forward, lost his balance, and fell about 42 feet off a rock face, landing on the ground below. The injured faller was treated by first aid on site, walked out of the cut block, transported to the barge camp in a company vehicle, and then transported to hospital by helicopter.

**Injury:** Crush injuries to arm

**Industry:** Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Interior B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Aug

As a worker was clearing a board from a planer, the worker's arm was drawn into the planer outfeed rolls.

**Injury:** Close call

**Industry:** Forestry

**Core Activity:** Logging road construction or maintenance

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Jul

An excavator was preparing a section of new logging road for blasting. A landslide (15 m wide by 130 m long) started and the excavator was carried downslope about 130 m, where it came to rest at the bottom of the hill. The operator was not injured and was able to exit the machine and walk out to a safe location.

**Injury:** Suspected concussion

**Industry:** Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

**Core Activity:** Sawmill

**Location:** Lower Mainland

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Aug

A worker on a sawmill cleanup crew, working in a restricted area, fell about 6 feet through a floor opening and landed on the conveyor belt below.

**Injury:** Injuries to the head, bruising

**Industry:** Forestry

**Core Activity:** Cable or hi-lead logging

**Location:** Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

**Date of Incident:** 2019-Jul

A worker was operating and walking a grapple yarder down a 21 percent grade when the machine abruptly turned hard to the right, steering the machine over a steep bank (slope of 75 percent). The grapple yarder came to rest 60 feet below the road. The worker exited out the back door of the machine, climbed to the road, and was treated by first aid, then transported to hospital

## Equipping Industry to Combat Combustible Dust

Dust from wood, metal, flour, and more can ignite. Free online training can help employers, contractors, and workers in manufacturing control the hazard.

Just about any substance can be combustible when it's the size of a grain of table salt.

"When we grind things up

very small, almost everything burns," says

Lorne Davies, safety

advisor and combustible dust specialist with the Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC (MSABC).



"All organic material — from cocoa to flour to wood — is flammable and combustible. In addition, metals and plastics can also be flammable at this particle size. If you generate a cloud of these products, and you have the appropriate air-fuel mixture, they ignite really well."

Lorne says employers can use the course to answer important questions such as:

- Is the type of dust in our workplace a hazard?
- How can we determine if our dust is combustible?
- How flammable is it?
- Is present housekeeping adequate to control the hazard?
- Can we use air hoses to clean combustible dust safely?
- Is our dust collection system designed to control the explosion of combustible dust and vent it safely away from the building and employees?

[For more information](#)

## Prevention Through Design

One of the topics at this year's WorkSafeBC's Ergonomics Forum that will be held in Richmond on October 10th will be the concept of Prevention through Design also known as Prevention by Design.

This approach integrates ergonomics into the design stage when first creating workspaces, tools, equipment, processes, and work tasks. All industries can benefit from managing risk through inherently safer design, an approach that's considered to be one of the most effective and valuable ways to reduce risks of occupational incidents. [For More Information](#)

## Call for Feedback on Proposed Amendments to the OHS Regulation

WorkSafeBC is inviting feedback on proposed amendments relating to log loading in forestry operations. The deadline for input has been extended to Friday, September 27.

[For more information](#)

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