

2 Faller Fatalities in 2 Weeks



Photo Submitted

It is with great sadness that we announce that USW Local 1-1937 member, Chris Bohn, 54, was fatally injured near his home in Gold River on March 1.

Chris was working on a harvesting block near Gold River falling right-of-way in a new block when he was struck by a windfall. The investigation into this tragedy is continuing and information will be shared when made available.

For the second time in the month of March a second faller suffered a logging accident that claimed his life. On March 15, a faller was fatally injured when he was struck by the top of a tree at a logging site on Mount Connolly, northeast of Broughton Island.

The RCMP received reports of a workplace fatality at a logging facility on Mount Connolly, near Kingcome Inlet, shortly before 12:30 p.m. on March 15. When officers arrived, they discovered a 41-year-old man from Comox had died. His identity has not been disclosed and the investigation is continuing.

Brian Butler, president of Steelworkers Local 1-1937, said “Safety discussions have been held with falling departments of member companies to ensure the workers are focused on safety following the incident that resulted in Brother Chris Bohn’s fatality”. Butler went on to say; “The union is awaiting WorkSafe’s report into the accident in the interest of comparing it to our joint union/company investigation, in the hope of preventing this tragic outcome from ever happening again.”

Our sincere condolences go out to the families, friends and co-workers of these two men.

COVID 19
Province-wide restrictions
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WorkSafeBC Forestry High Risk Strategy

The 2021–2023 Forestry High Risk Strategy (HRS) is a comprehensive prevention strategy to address workplace safety in forestry operations. The intent of the Forestry HRS is to execute focused and impactful inspectional activity in those areas of the timber harvesting segment that represent exceptional risk to workers.

Identified high risk work activities typically fall into five areas of operations:

- Manual tree falling
- Log transportation
- Cable yarding
- Mechanized harvesting
- Silviculture

In addition to the five main focus areas, which are based on different harvest phases and related activities, emergency response planning (ERP) has also been identified as a critical target area for the Forestry HRS because of a number of serious ERP failures documented at forestry workplaces through incident investigations.

Due to the continuing high injury rate in hand falling, a dedicated inspection team will focus on employers who are involved in manual tree falling and are associated with high injury rates, a sequence of high risk injuries, and/or poor compliance rates.

[Forestry High Risk Strategy - WorkSafeBC](#)

Matt Franks Steps Down From SAFER Council

Matthew Franks who was previously the Safety Manager for Canadian Forest Products (Canfor) has moved in to the role of Sawmill Superintendent at the sawmill in Houston BC. Matt was recently recognized by the SAFER Council with a small token of their appreciation for all of his hard work while on the SAFER Council. Matt has been replaced by Grace Cox, the present day Safety Manager for Canfor. The SAFER Council wishes Matt much success in his new position.



HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Soft tissue injuries (1 worker)
 Industry: Forestry, Services (NES)
 Core Activity: Integrated forest management
 Location: Northern B.C.
 Date of Incident: 2021-Feb

A forestry processor operator and a mechanic were working on a processor head. The mechanic's service truck was parked on an icy road with a slight slope. As the work was being done, the ambient temperature increased and the ice and snow began to warm up. The truck slid downhill, pinning the operator between the service truck and the processor head. The operator was able to self-extricate from the entrapment. The mechanic was not injured.

Injury: Injuries to leg
 Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products
 Core Activity: Wooden box, crate, pallet, or lath manufacture
 Location: Lower Mainland
 Date of Incident: 2021-Feb
 A new and young worker was struck by a forklift.

Injury: Fractured arm, laceration
 Industry: Forestry
 Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking
 Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
 Date of Incident: 2021-Jan
 A hand faller was completing the falling of a cedar tree 40 inches in diameter. Due to improper falling cuts, the cedar fell at 90 degrees from the intended direction, into standing timber, where it contacted two dangerous trees. One of the dangerous trees failed, sending debris toward the faller's location. The faller, who was injured by the debris, received first aid on site and was then transported by company crew boat en route to hospital.

Injury: Injuries to fingers
 Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products
 Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture
 Location: Lower Mainland
 Date of Incident: 2021-Feb
 As a worker was removing a jammed piece of wood from a drive chain and sprocket, the worker's fingers got caught in the nip point.

Injury: Upper body injuries (1 worker)
 Industry: Forestry
 Core Activity: Log hauling / Integrated forest management
 Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.
 Date of Incident: 2020-Dec
 A worker was assisting the operator of a self-loading log transporter line pulling logs roadside. The worker was struck by the transporter's grapple.

Injury: Close call
 Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products
 Core Activity: Sawmill
 Location: Interior B.C.
 Date of Incident: 2021-Jan
 A fire occurred at a sawmill when an arbor bearing in a saw-box of a 20-foot planer seized during operation. The fire detection and suppression system functioned as designed and the fire in the planer was extinguished by the automated system. A secondary fire, which occurred in a partition wall adjacent to the planer, was put out by workers on site. The local fire department responded.

WorkSafeBC Manufacturing High Risk Strategy

The 2021–2023 Manufacturing High Risk Strategy (HRS) is designed to reduce the incidence of injuries in manufacturing by assisting employers to implement their safety programs and control risks at the workplace. The strategy includes education, consultation, and inspection activities.

The goals of the 2021–2023 HRS are to:

1. Prevent injuries in the manufacturing industry: In 2019, the injury rate in manufacturing was 2.8 time-loss injuries per 100 workers. This is 20 percent higher than the provincial injury rate average.
2. Prevent serious injuries and fatal injuries in the manufacturing industry: In 2019, the injury rate in manufacturing was 1 serious injury per 200 workers in manufacturing. This is 40 percent higher than the provincial injury rate average.
3. Prevent fire and explosion events in the manufacturing industry.

Our inspections, consultations, and education activities will focus on supporting employers and confirm whether they:

- Identify hazards and risks
- Implement effective and compliant controls
- Develop safe work procedures, programs, and policies
- Provide related instruction, training, and supervision
- Conduct effective inspections
- Perform effective accident investigations
- Engage the joint health and safety committee or worker health and safety representative

The 2021–2023 strategy will focus on the most significant risks within an industry, from among the following nine hazards:

- Machine safeguarding, de-energization and lock out
- Powered tools
- Hand tools
- Material handling
- Falls from elevation
- Falls on the same level (slips, trips and falls)
- Mobile equipment
- Combustible dust
- Musculoskeletal injuries (MSI)

[Manufacturing High Risk Strategy - WorkSafeBC](#)

From Pain to Purpose

On April 30th the SAFER Council is asking workers to wear a red T-shirt in memory of the tragedy that took place 7 years ago at the WFP sawmill in Nanaimo. Two men were killed and two more wounded by a former employee. On this day we ask everyone to think about how they can help to prevent workplace violence, harassment and bullying. [For more information](#)



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