

# The BC Forest Safety Council



BC Forest Safety Council  
*Unsafe is Unacceptable*

2006 BC Community Forest  
Association Conference and AGM  
Burns Lake BC June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

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## PURPOSE

- ❖ The Safety Challenge
- ❖ About the Council
- ❖ The Work Plan
- ❖ Will We Make a Difference?



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*Unsafe is Unacceptable*

## ABOUT MYSELF

- ❖ Professional Forester
- ❖ Worked in Industry for Sometime
- ❖ Senior Advisor to the Council
- ❖ Working Specifically on the SAFE Companies Project
- ❖ I Have Experienced, First Hand, the Cost of Unsafe

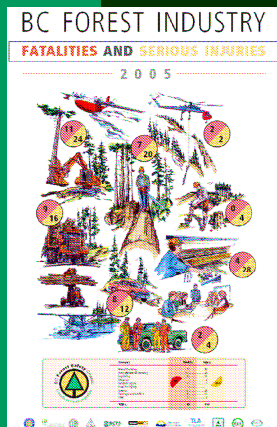


## THE CHALLENGE

- ❖ The safety performance of the industry has been unacceptable for some time
- ❖ Historically high levels of fatalities and injuries
- ❖ Many efforts to improve, but trends continued
- ❖ This time, it must be different
- ❖ As the industry renews, safety must become a priority



## THE CHALLENGE -- 2005



Fatalities and Serious injuries in every sector and every region

Consistent with historic trends in the industry

Not the first time Safety has been made an issue

This time the response is different



## THE SECTOR CAN BE SAFE

- ❖ The current situation can be altered through collaborative action within the Sector
- ❖ We have a strategy and plan developed by the sector (Forest Safety Task Force)
- ❖ Other jurisdictions have had success
- ❖ In BC, there are many safe forestry operations of every size in every activity in all regions
- ❖ How can we get there together?



## ABOUT THE COUNCIL

### ❖ Original ❖ Our series ❖ Orga advoc secto ❖ Com orga mini

- Central Interior Logging Association (CILA)
- Coast Forest Products Association (CFPA)
- Council of Forest Industries (COFI)
- Interior Logging Association (ILA)
- Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association (ILMA)
- North West Loggers Association (NWLA)
- Steelworkers—IWA Council
- Truck Loggers Association (TLA)
- Western Fallers Association (WFA)
- Western Silvicultural Contractors Assoc. (WSCA)
- BC Timber Sales
- WorkSafe BC (WCB)
- Ministry of Forests and Range



## A UNIQUE ORGANIZATION

### ❖ **Not a Government Organization**

- Of the sector for the sector
- Funded by contributions from employers' WSBC assessments.

### ❖ **A Membership of Stakeholders**

- Everyone who is part of the problem and part of the solution
- Challenges due to internal tensions and traditional conflicts

### ❖ **Unifying Objective: Worker and Workplace SAFETY**



## A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

- ❖ **Everyone Around One Table**
  - The one place that everyone is there and has an equal voice
- ❖ **Potential for Long-Term and Lasting Solutions**
  - Reiterate...Everyone who is part of the problem must be part of the solution
- ❖ **Stress Again the Unifying Objective: Worker and Workplace SAFETY**



## THE FOREST SAFETY ACCORD

- ❖ **A Safety Constitution for the Industry**
- ❖ **Covers six main points:**
  - Key Beliefs
  - Shared Responsibility
  - Recognition of Safety Performance
  - Commitment to Training and Supervision
  - Legislation
  - Continual improvement



## ACCORD---Key Beliefs

- ❖ We believe that **ALL** fatalities and injuries are preventable
- ❖ We believe in a culture where the health and safety of all workers has over-riding priority.
- ❖ We believe that excellence in health and safety is important to our long-term success.



## ACCORD---Shared Responsibility

- ❖ We are collectively and individually responsible for the safety of all workers and all worksites.
- ❖ Individuals must assume responsibility for their own safety and the safety of co-workers by following all safety rules, procedures and practices; by refusing to perform unsafe work; and by taking collective responsibility for the unsafe conduct of others.
- ❖ Tenure holders, licencees and prime contractors must take a leadership role in ensuring worker health and safety and assuring accountability for safety on the worksite.



## ACCORD--Recognize Safety Performance

- ❖ The commitment to health and safety is to all workers, not just direct employees. When engaging contractors, sub-contractors and others to provide services, the selection process and administration of contracts will include recognition and support of good safety performance and practices
- ❖ Employers will recognize and support the safety performance of their employees
- ❖ All owners of forested lands, tenure holders and licencees will give weight to the safety record and current practices of companies in the awarding of contracts and in the determination of fees and levies



## ACCORD---Training and Supervision

- ❖ We understand the importance of workers being fully prepared for the work they do and the provision of competent supervisors who will insist on and enforce safe work practices.
- ❖ All workers on the worksite must be competent, fully trained and certified for the work they are performing.



## ACCORD---Legislation

- ❖ It is understood that the regulatory environment of the Forest Industry can have profound impacts on safety. Accordingly, government ministries and agencies must take into account the importance of health and safety when developing, reviewing and drafting applicable areas of law and regulation.



## ACCORD---Continual improvement

- ❖ We are committed to the on-going improvement of our practices and support efforts to develop and implement new methods, procedures and technologies that have the potential to improve safety.





## AREAS OF FOCUS

- ❖ A Safety Aware Legal Regime
- ❖ Confident and Competent Workers
- ❖ SAFE Companies
- ❖ Cultural Change



## SAFE LAWS

- ❖ A Safety Aware Legal Regime
  - The legislation, regulations, and procedures will always take safety into account
  - Future laws and regulations will be developed with a safety lens
  - Standards and procedures will be applied where needed to ensure safe worksites



## SAFE LAWS – Initiatives

### ❖ Reviews of Forestry Related Legislation, Regulations and Practices that have Safety Impacts

- Regulatory review of MOFR
- Practices review of MOFR
- New Resource Roads Act
- Review of WSBC legislation, regs and practices
- Practices under Forestry TruckSafe



## CONFIDENT WORKERS

### ❖ Confident and Competent Workers

- Forestry occupations will be recognized as the skilled and qualified jobs they are
- All workers in the sector will be fully trained, qualified and, where appropriate, certified
- Supervisors will also be trained and certified



## CONFIDENT WORKERS -- Initiatives

- ❖ **Faller Certification** (July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006)
  - First fully certified occupation
  - Mandatory certification almost complete
  - New faller training in place
  - Quality assurance and review process in place
- ❖ **Forestry Supervisors**
  - Pilot training course completed
- ❖ **Others**



## SAFE COMPANIES

- ❖ All companies, large and small, will endorse the Forest Safety Accord and have in place all of the necessary programs, personnel and procedures to promote the safety of their workers and those of their contractors
- ❖ For The Workshops...This Afternoon...



## BC SAFE Silviculture

- ❖ Deals with the specific requirements of tree planting, brushing, firefighting etc.
- ❖ A full suite of training and qualification programs
- ❖ Tightly linked to SAFE Companies and Forestry TruckSafe
- ❖ Deals with issues of Employment Standards as well



## Forestry TruckSafe

- ❖ Truck related incidents are now the largest single area of concern
- ❖ The focus of two Summits that developed an Action Plan
- ❖ Strong connections to general Trucking and the Oil and Gas sector
- ❖ Road use committees have been established
- ❖ Standards, practices and regulatory and legislative changes are being worked on with MOFR, Solicitor General and the RCMP



## EMERGING PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Substance Use and Abuse**
  - A new program being developed in concert with other sectors
- ❖ **Workforce Development Planning**
  - Working to develop a forest sector plan for workforce development
  - Being done in concert with of the agencies like HRDC and the ITA
  - Deals with issues related to aging workforce



## CULTURAL CHANGE

- ❖ The safety of all workers and worksites in the sector will become an over-riding priority within the sector
- ❖ The province will be more aware of safety and the improvements being made
- ❖ Fatalities will be noted with respect



## CULTURAL CHANGE -- Initiatives

- ❖ **Getting the word out**
- ❖ **Better, more timely information**
- ❖ **Forest Safety Ombudsman**
- ❖ **Safety Advocates**



## CULTURAL CHANGE -- Getting the word out

- ❖ **Showing respect for families and workers**
  - Taking note when a forestry worker is killed or seriously injured
- ❖ **Newsletters, Conferences, Talks**
  - Take every opportunity to stress and underline safety and its importance
- ❖ **Celebrating successes**
  - We have positive stories, experiences and messages



## CULTURAL CHANGE -- Better Information

- ❖ **We are not sharing safety information**
  - Information inside companies and Regional
- ❖ **Fatalities & Serious injury database**
  - Immediate notification
  - Database improving/Privacy concerns
- ❖ **Safety Alerts**
  - A good start, Common format, requirement of SC
- ❖ **Improved Investigations**
  - More timely, better on Company side



## CULTURAL CHANGE -- Safety Ombudsman

- ❖ **New, innovative and important (Roger Harris)**
- ❖ **An impartial safety voice for the sector**
- ❖ **Will ensure**
  - Facilitate fair, equitable and timely solutions
  - Provide confidentiality and protection for individuals and companies
  - Deal with safety issues that may arise between contractors and licensees
  - Provide a forum for discussion and review
  - Foster communications about safety



## CULTURAL CHANGE -- Safety Advocates

- ❖ **New, Innovative and Important**
  - We need an extra “push” to get us thinking safety
- ❖ **They will Assist With:**
  - Assessment of current safety programs, practices and identify gaps
  - Development of training and qualification plans for companies employees and workers
  - Assistance in understanding and meeting the steps leading up to becoming a SAFE Company
  - Conducting safety seminars and meetings
  - Generally, assistance in any way that will facilitate the early adoption of programs and procedures that promote safety



## HOW ARE WE DOING?

- ❖ **A Good Start**
  - The full sector, including government and the public is engaged
  - Safety is now an important issue
  - A Plan of Action is in place
- ❖ **Critical Success Factors**
  - Better understanding of our safety issues
  - Industry leadership
  - Government engagement
  - Building a forest sector safety infrastructure
- ❖ **BUT, Success Must be Improved Safety**
  - Need to get the foundation in place to deal with the structural issues affecting safety





## ONE LAST COMMENT

- ❖ This could be thought of as a voluntary program...however;
  - You may HAVE to do it...Licencees, BCTS, MoFR
  - You may want to do it...to save money
- CONSIDER INSTEAD---
- ❖ Doing it for the right reasons...ensuring your employees and you return home safely to your loved ones each and every day.



**Thank You For Your  
Attention**

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