



## Are you a supervisor ?

Do you **instruct, direct** and **control** workers in the performance of their duties?

If **yes**, then you **are** a supervisor.

A supervisor must:

- 1) Ensure the health and safety of all workers under their direct supervision,
- 2) Ensure that the workers under their direct supervision are made aware of all known or reasonably foreseeable health or safety hazards in the area where they work, and comply with all safe work requirements,
- 3) Cooperate with other persons carrying out duties related to the health and safety of workers, and
- 4) Communicate unsafe conditions to management and workers applicable to the work being supervised.

### Supervisors Role in Safety

- Communicate safety rules and procedures to workers.
- Ensure workers understand them.
- Ensure workers follow them.
- Conduct safety meetings and follow up communications.
- Conduct emergency planning and implementation.
- Report unsafe behaviour.
- Report and/or investigate incidents.

- Participate on the safety committee/team.
- Be a resource for workers, and help them make safe decisions.
- Lead by example.
- Set the tone towards safety.

### **Key Things to Remember**

- Supervisors have a responsibility to ensure workers are aware of and behave consistently with their responsibilities.
- Establishing safe work practices and ensure they are implemented is better than reacting to incidents.
- Don't assume people are aware of hazards.
- Controlling hazards for every worker on the site is critical in ensuring safety.
- Practicing due diligence by documenting your actions.
- Everyone in the forest industry needs to be **qualified** to do their work safely. This includes anyone doing the work of a supervisor.
- **Qualified** means being knowledgeable of the work, the hazards and the means to control the hazards, by reason of education, training, experience or a combination thereof.
- As a supervisor your employer must support you to ensure the health and safety of workers carrying out their work under your supervision and to ensure the health and safety of all workers at the worksite.

### **Resources:**

BCFSC Forestry Supervisor Training: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/98>

Workers Compensation Act, see section 117:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/96492\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96492_00)

WSBC on line course for supervisors: <http://supervisingforsafety.com/>