



Supervisor Responsibilities

Do you instruct, direct and control workers in the performance of their duties? If you do, then you are a **supervisor**.

A supervisor's duties:

1. **Ensure** the health and safety of all workers under their direct supervision.
2. **Ensure** workers under their direct supervision are made aware of all known or reasonably foreseeable health and safety hazards in the area where they work.
3. **Know** the WorkSafeBC requirements that apply to the work under their supervision and make sure those requirements are met.
4. **Ensure** workers under their supervision have the appropriate personal protective equipment, use it properly and regularly inspect and maintain it.
5. **Cooperate** with other persons carrying out duties related to the health and safety of workers.

Supervisor's Role in Safety

- **Communicate** rules and safe work procedures to workers.
- **Ensure** workers understand and follow safe work procedures.
- **Conduct** safety meetings and follow up communications.
- **Conduct** emergency planning and implementation.
- **Report** unsafe behaviours; report and investigate incidents.
- **Participate** on the safety committee / team.
- **Be** a resource for workers and help them make safe decisions.
- **Lead** by example and set the tone towards safety.

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Key Things to Remember

- **Ensuring** workers are aware of and behave consistently with their responsibilities.
- **Establishing** and communicating safe work practices and ensuring they are implemented is far better than reacting to incidents.
- **Don't** assume people are aware of hazards.
- **Identifying** and 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 – click on the links below

[BC Forest Safety - Supervisor Training](#)

[Workers Compensation Act - Section 23](#)

[Supervising For - Health and Safety](#)

[Supervising For - Safety online course](#)