



Findings and Recommendations of a Death Review Panel Convened To Examine Three 2008 Workplace Incidents Involving Tree Fallers

Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia

October 2009

Preamble

On July 29 and July 30, 2009, a Death Review Panel was convened in Nanaimo to examine the circumstances surrounding the deaths of three tree fallers who died in coastal logging operations in the early part of 2008.

Fifteen panel members were appointed under Section 49 of the *Coroners Act*. The panel represented a wide cross-section of backgrounds within the forestry sector, including the industry, labour, government, regulatory establishment and forest safety advocacy. Working fallers and falling contractors were also prominently represented on the panel.

The purpose of a death review panel is to review the facts and circumstances of deaths in order to provide advice to the Chief Coroner with respect to matters that may impact public health and safety and the prevention of deaths.

Following the review, the panel chair reports to the Chief Coroner any findings respecting the circumstances surrounding the deaths that were the subject of the review and any recommendations respecting the prevention of similar deaths.

Members of the death review panel must not make any finding of legal responsibility or express any conclusion of law.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for this panel were established under Section 49(2)(c) of the *Coroners Act* and were as follow:

- To review coroners' investigative findings and additional information provided by other organizations with respect to the three deaths;
- To confirm trends, patterns or themes arising from these deaths;
- To discuss what regulatory framework, workplace safety mechanisms and safety management systems were in place at the time of the incidents or in existence at the time the panel convened;
- To discuss any gaps in the applicable safety network; and
- To provide the Chief Coroner with advice on how to prevent similar deaths in the future.

Findings

While the deliberations of the panel are subject to the privacy provisions of the *Coroners Act*, the Chief Coroner may publish and distribute materials for the purpose of informing the public respecting the prevention of deaths.

After examining the specific circumstances related to the three fatal incidents, the panel determined that in all three cases, the work practices utilized immediately prior to, and at the time of the incidents, were not consistent with the industry's best practices. This occurred despite the fact that all fallers involved in these incidents had numerous years of falling experience and were certified to the current BC Faller Training Standard. In addition, in all three cases, the fallers carried out their activities under the general direction of falling supervisors, although the degree of supervision and its effectiveness varied from case to case. Further, the deaths occurred in spite of the regulatory framework intended to ensure worker safety through adherence to standards.

In all three cases reviewed by the panel, the trees involved in the incidents could be characterized as "dangerous trees", in view of their physical characteristics and/or their location in a given terrain. One of the cases involved a situation where two fallers were working in close proximity to each other and a tree felled by one the workers, struck the other worker. Two of the cases involved bucking (the act of sawing a previously felled or uprooted tree into smaller segments) in hazardous environment: In one case, the faller was bucking an uprooted tree on a narrow rock ledge; in the other, the faller was working in steep ground, with thin soils, poor footing and numerous windthrown stems scattered across the hillside.

In all three cases, the risk assessment and mitigation procedures utilized at the various planning and operational stages, which either preceded or coincided with the actual process of felling trees, failed to adequately recognize and control the inherent risks. The panel was of the opinion that better outcomes can be achieved through improved risk assessment processes at all stages of operational planning, more effective supervision, greater utilization of alternate hazard mitigation methods and more dependable strategies for controlling the effect of human factors in critical decision making processes.

Recommendations

The *Coroners Act* directs that following each review by a death review panel, any findings and recommendations made by the panel respecting the prevention of similar deaths must be reported to the Chief Coroner.

The Chief Coroner may bring the findings and recommendations of a death review panel to the attention of appropriate persons, public authorities or the public.

The Panel submits to the Chief Coroner the following recommendations for review, consideration and distribution, as deemed appropriate by the Chief Coroner:

1. To the BC Forest Safety Council (the Council)

That the Council develop an endorsement system for planners, fallers and supervisors, linking individual skill, experience and knowledge levels to the diverse work conditions and levels of risk which may be encountered by tree fallers across the province.

Chair's Comment: Through its discussions, the Panel recognized that there exists a high degree of variability in the level of risk present in the different workplaces where manual tree falling takes place. Working with large timber, danger trees, or in steep terrain, requires risk assessment skills which exceed the demands placed on fallers in less challenging terrain or smaller timber types. Similarly, supervision and planning of operations in challenging work conditions requires expanded skill sets for planners and falling supervisors.

2. To the BC Forest Safety Council

That the Council develop a Hazard Matrix for use in harvest layout and planning.

Chair's Comment: The Panel recognized that a Hazard Matrix would help in identification of hazards early in the planning stages (engineering layout or even timber cruise phase) and help in matching the qualifications of individual fallers to work difficulties likely to be encountered in a given block. Early recognition of potential hazards with the help of the Matrix would also facilitate proactive staging of resources for control of hazards (for example, planning for extensive danger tree blasting when required in a particular cutblock).

The Panel anticipated that a Hazard Matrix might take into account such objective hazards as steep slope and other terrain conditions, as well as timber type and the overall health of the stand.

The Panel acknowledged that any discussions of a Hazard Matrix would be best undertaken in a collaborative forum also involving the Ministry of Forests and Range, WorkSafeBC, Association of BC Forest Professionals and forest industry representatives.

3. To the BC Forest Safety Council

That the Council consider leading a study into falling supervisor workload management issues.

Chair's Comment: The Panel acknowledged that the level of supervision and its effectiveness varies greatly across the industry. Falling supervisors who are responsible for their own production quota, and even dedicated supervisors who may be directing the work of fallers spread out over distant operations, may be facing workload challenges which interfere with effective supervision, especially as it relates to ensuring safe work environment for fallers. The Panel identified the need to develop better understanding of these workload management issues and identify tools and strategies for facilitating effective supervision.

4. To the BC Forest Safety Council

That the Council consider developing a Faller Safety Performance Tracking System tied to the certification process.

Chair's Comment: The BC Forest Safety Council is the certifying body for tree fallers in British Columbia. The Council administers the training of new fallers and the annual renewals of faller certification. Effective monitoring of the safety record and competence of individual fallers, especially in the current industry climate characterized by prevalence of small contract firms and individual owner/operators, is critical to ensuring faller safety. A performance tracking system would help identify any deficiencies in the level of competency and identify need for remedial training. It would also help recognize fallers with more advanced skills and consistent aptitude for safe work practices.

5. To the BC Forest Safety Council

That the Council consider integrating into the SAFE Companies audit process a comprehensive section on fallers achieving compliance with the BC Faller Training Standard.

Chair's Comment: The BC Forest Safety Council administers SAFE Companies, an audit and certification program designed to help companies ensure that their health and safety programs meet industry standards. The program includes, among other components, access to safety forms, templates and sample policies which can be utilized in safety program development. It also involves audits of safety systems. The Panel recognized that the effectiveness of the audit program in promoting faller safety might be enhanced by the inclusion of a component addressing falling safety specifically and in detail.

6. To WorkSafeBC

The Panel acknowledged that WorkSafeBC is currently reviewing strategies to reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities to fallers through initiatives such as the Faller Compliance Strategy Audit and Quality Control Process. The Panel recommends that WorkSafeBC continue with the processes which will lead to the implementation of these strategies.

Chair's Comment: The Panel recognized that ensuring widespread compliance with the OH&S Regulation provisions addressing falling safety, planning, and supervision, must be an integral part of any attempts at preventing faller fatalities.

7. To WorkSafeBC

That WorkSafeBC examine strategies for expanding the distribution of falling safety promotional media including safety posters and alerts.

Chair's Comment: Individual panel members commented on the effectiveness of driving the safety message and promoting safe falling methods through educational posters and alerts distributed to worksites. The Panel acknowledged the value of safety alerts produced by WorkSafeBC and wished to advocate that production and distribution of such materials be expanded.

8. To WorkSafeBC

That WorkSafeBC consider increased promotion of tree falling safety through social marketing strategies such as distribution of video materials and commercials.

Chair's Comment: The Panel acknowledged the work already undertaken in this area by WorkSafeBC and wished to emphasize the need to continue and expand the efforts to influence change by utilizing creative messaging techniques to target not only tree fallers directly, but also their families and the public.

9. To the BC Forest Safety Council and to WorkSafeBC

That the Council and WorkSafeBC work towards development and adoption of alternatives to traditional methods for controlling falling hazards, by promoting research and pilot projects in this area.

Chair's Comment: The Panel recognized the potential value of alternate techniques such as danger tree blasting. The Panel also recognized that the list of potential alternatives has not been exhausted and that there likely exist opportunities for identifying other safe methods. Although it was not this Panel's objective to try to identify any such techniques through the panel process, hypothetical discussions did raise such possibilities as securing of potentially unstable logs and rootwads, in steep terrain, with cables.

10. To WorkSafeBC and to the BC Forest Safety Council

That WorkSafeBC and the BC Forest Safety Council undertake a cost benefit study to assess the efficacy of alternate methods of conducting tree falling operations in high hazard areas.

Chair's Comment: The Panel was of the opinion that timber harvesting operations, including falling operations, which are planned and conducted with safety as an explicit objective, translate into higher productivity and lower unit costs. However, the Panel also recognized that the benefits of integrating safety into forestry operations might not be generally recognized by the industry. Further, the panel was of the opinion that consideration should be given to exploring new, alternate methods of conducting falling operations which focus on safety and may have the added benefit of reducing production costs.

11. To WorkSafeBC and to the BC Forest Safety Council

That WorkSafeBC and the Council promote research into human factors and decision making involved in falling accidents.

Chair's Comment: The Panel acknowledged that tree fallers face numerous technical and safety challenges on a daily basis; throughout their careers, fallers are called upon to make countless risk assessment and risk mitigation decisions. Fallers with years of experience, such as the three fallers whose deaths were the subject of the Panel's review, would have completed risk assessments and arrived at safe control measures on numerous previous occasions.

The Panel was challenged by the notion that experienced, knowledgeable fallers would fail to recognize seemingly obvious hazards and/or fail to arrive at appropriate, safe control measures.

The Panel was of the opinion that findings from research into the human factors involved in falling accidents may help fallers improve their situational awareness and consequently, facilitate improved decision making.

The Panel concluded that such research may be best carried out under the auspices of WorkSafeBC and that lessons from human factors research could be incorporated into faller training, with the findings distributed by the BC Forest Safety Council.

12. To the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC

That the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC develop an Industry Recommended Practice (IRP) for all aspects of tree falling, incorporating some of the progressive concepts and strategies already in existence in the industry.

Chair's Comment: The Panel recognized that best practices concepts and strategies have already been formulated and adopted by certain individual forestry companies. However, there is not a single Industry Recommended Practice (IRP) for falling operations in BC. By contrast, the petroleum industry has developed a number of IRPs for various operations within that industry. An IRP is a compilation of best practices and guidelines accepted and promoted by the industry and the regulators. IRPs define the minimum standards for safe operations and allow individual operators to use them as a template for building safe management systems. IRPs are not regulations, but they provide the management and operators with relevant advice and can serve as a valuable supplement to the OH&S Regulations and Guidelines. A consideration could also be given to strengthening the impact of an IRP by referencing it in OH&S Guidelines or Prevention Policies.

Adoption of a province-wide IRP for planning and execution of falling operations would help reinforce the principle that safety must become part of workplace culture.

13. To the BC Forest Safety Council and to WorkSafeBC

That the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC continue with, and expedite, the development of a falling supervisor competency matrix and occupational training curriculum (DACUM).

Chair's Comment: The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation provides that a "qualified supervisor must be designated for all falling and associated bucking activities in a forestry operation". The BC Forest Safety Council, with the participation of industry representatives and WorkSafeBC, is in the process of developing and implementing Falling Supervisor certification. Integral to this process is the development of qualification criteria for these supervisory positions. The recently undertaken DACUM (Development of Curriculum) process is designed to establish standards for falling supervisor certification.

The Panel recognized that effective supervision of fallers by qualified supervisors is essential to ensuring faller safety.

14. To the Ministry of Forests and Range and to the Association of BC Forest Professionals

That the Ministry of Forests and Range, along with the Association of BC Forest Professionals, work towards creating a requirement that safety planning be incorporated into operational harvest planning.

Chair's Comment: The Panel was of the opinion that planning for safety of tree fallers should be a primary consideration and be addressed explicitly in the harvest planning and approval processes.

While it is ultimately the responsibility of fallers and their supervisors to implement safe work practices at the base of a tree, the Panel also recognized that ensuring the safety of fallers must be viewed as a shared responsibility, requiring the commitment and effort of the participants involved in all stages of planning and execution of timber harvest operations.

Integral to the early stages in the planning processes is the collection and analysis of data on terrain features and timber stand composition and conditions. Particular terrain and timber conditions, such as steep slopes, rock bluffs, or areas with a high snag density, represent an increased level of risk for tree fallers. Consequently, cutblock layout and even the choice of logging methods often have significant impact on fallers' safety. Further, hazards identified early in the operational planning process (engineering layout or even at the timber cruise stage) can be tracked and the information utilized in faller safety planning. Early recognition of potential hazards, and effective communication of this information, allows for proactive staging of resources for control of hazards (for example, planning for extensive danger tree blasting when required in a particular cutblock). It may also help in matching the qualifications of individual fallers to work difficulties likely to be encountered in a given block.

15. To Explosives Regulatory Division, Natural Resources Canada

That Natural Resources Canada consider creating an exemption which would enable the use of Type 6 magazines to store small quantities of explosives in remote and hard to access locations, where such explosives would be used to enhance forest worker safety by eliminating hazards in manual tree falling operations.

Chair's Comment: The Panel recognized that in some circumstances, there may be limited options for dealing safely with danger trees. Use of explosives to control danger trees has been identified as a safe and viable option, provided that qualified personnel and suitable explosives are readily available. Timely access to explosives is generally not an issue for logging operations with road access, where large explosives storage magazines are established in support of road building operations. It can, however, be a challenge in certain remote locations, such as helicopter logging blocks in coastal inlets, with no road access.

As of May 21, 2009, Type 6 magazines have not been permitted for overnight, unattended storage in forestry operations. No new Type 6 magazine licenses have been issued since May 31, 2006. The additional costs associated with alternatives to Type 6 magazines may, in the case of smaller scale falling operations, create an impediment which will preclude the use of explosives as a safe alternate method for controlling falling hazards, consequently resulting in an impediment to worker safety.

Fully acknowledging the public safety considerations that dictate the storage standards for industrial explosives, the Panel is asking that Natural Resources Canada consider creating a Type 6 magazine exemption for very specific applications.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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Coroners Service
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

*Findings and Recommendations of a Death Review Panel
Convened To Examine Three 2008 Workplace Incidents
Involving Tree Fallers*

Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia

October 2009

RESPONSES

1. Ministry of Forests and Range
2. WorkSafe BC
3. B.C. Forest Safety Council
4. Association of BC Forest Professionals
5. Natural Resources Canada

File: 280-30
Ref: 122915

December 15, 2009

Norm Leibel, Deputy Chief Coroner
Emergency Management BC
Metrotower II
800 - 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5H 4N2

Dear Mr. Leibel:

Thank you for your letter of November 2, 2009, and follow up of December 3, 2009, to the Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range regarding the BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel Report and Recommendations surrounding the deaths of three tree fallers in coastal logging operations in 2008. I have been asked to respond and apologize for the delay.



The Ministry of Forests and Range appreciates the coroner's services recommendations. The Ministry of Forests and Range is fully committed to provide workable solutions to reduce serious injuries and fatalities to forest workers, including fallers.

While forest professionals must account for safety at a broad level, day to day planning of crews and equipment is addressed by on-site supervisors. It is imperative that information flow between these parties.

All parties involved in the forest management process have an obligation to ensure safety. Communication, understanding and awareness are critical components required for every phase to plan and undertake activities appropriately.

The Ministry of Forests and Range will review the recommendation specific to the ministry from both a regulatory and non-regulatory requirement, and will consult with the Association of BC Forest Professionals to consider how to implement it.

Page 1 of 2

Norm Leibel, Deputy Chief Coroner

The BC Forest Safety Council is in the process of developing faller supervisory training. The Ministry of Forests and Range expects that providing this training will enhance falling supervision as well as the working relationship between supervisors, fallers and planners with respect to safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dana Hayden".

Dana Hayden
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range



WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Policy and Research Division

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November 27, 2009

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2009

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Mr. Norm Leibel
Deputy Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Emergency Management BC
Metrotower II
Ste 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2

Dear Mr. Leibel

Re: BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel and Recommendations

Dave Anderson has asked that I coordinate this response to your letter of November 2, 2009 regarding the BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel Report and Recommendations into the deaths of three tree fallers who died in coastal logging operations in 2008. There are a number of recommendations directed to WorkSafeBC and I am writing to inform you of the actions that WorkSafeBC has taken or is taking to address these recommendations.

Recommendation 6:

The Panel acknowledged that WorkSafeBC is currently reviewing strategies to reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities to fallers through initiatives such as the Faller Compliance Strategy Audit and Quality Control Process. The Panel recommends that WorkSafeBC continue with the processes which will lead to the implementation of these strategies.

WorkSafeBC is developing an audit document to spot check the compliance of fallers with both the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation requirements for faller operations and also the training standard requirements of the BC Faller Training Standard. This audit system will be implemented in the field by WorkSafeBC officers in spring 2010. A quality control process will be developed and implemented by the BC Forest Safety Council ("Council") in consultation with WorkSafeBC, with respect to the faller training standard. That is, once a faller has been trained and certified in accordance with the BC Faller Training Standard, the Council will audit the use of the training standard in the field by the newly certified fallers. The intent is for the Council to audit a statistically significant sample of certified fallers to see if those fallers are indeed using the training standard as the basis upon which their work is carried out. A report of the findings will be forwarded to WorkSafeBC along with any corrective action plans to ensure compliance with the standard in the field has been achieved.

Recommendation 7:

That WorkSafeBC examine strategies for expanding the distribution of falling safety promotional media including safety posters and alerts.

WorkSafeBC will increase the number of safety alerts, posters and other resources to promote safe faller methods in BC. These safety resources will be developed in concert with other prevention activities to raise worker and employer awareness of responsibilities for safety and what actions are necessary to ensure faller safety in the workplace. This work will be done in conjunction with the Council. As well, our E-Business team is examining how to take advantage of new technologies to provide relevant material.

Recommendation 8:

That WorkSafeBC consider increased promotion of tree falling safety through social marketing strategies such as distribution of video materials and commercials.

WorkSafeBC is considering the development of internet safety spots involving a webcam based internet video system which will be based on real life situations and focus on "spotting the hazard". This system would utilize a webcam attached to the safety helmet of a faller and focus on pre-job planning for safety at the worksite; site preparation before the falling activity begins; safety considerations and awareness during the falling operation itself and post-falling site assessment. These webcam mini internet videos would be concluded with reference to WorkSafeBC and the Council for more information on how to work safely.

To WorkSafeBC's knowledge, this type of webcam information dispersement through the internet – with specific job site "how to be safe" messaging, hasn't been done before in any North American jurisdiction. Work will begin on these internet safety spots in 2010.

Recommendation 9:

That the Council and WorkSafeBC work towards development and adoption of alternatives to traditional methods for controlling falling hazard, by promoting research and pilot projects in this area.

WorkSafeBC is working with the Council in the development of innovative techniques to reduce the exposure of workers to unduly dangerous falling conditions. Included in these techniques, are broadening the application of danger tree blasting for falling where possible and the expansion of the search for mechanized falling techniques using

equipment specifically designed for harvesting of timber in very steep locations – locations which have traditionally been hand felled because of the steepness of the terrain. Mechanized falling equipment which can fell trees on slopes up to 100% in steepness is being investigated. FP Innovations is working with the Council and WorkSafeBC in a review of these types of equipment. Evaluations will be ongoing throughout 2010 with industry best practices to be forthcoming through the Council by 2011.

Recommendation 10:

That WorkSafeBC and the BC Forest Safety Council undertake a cost benefit study to assess the efficacy of alternate methods of conducting tree falling operations in high hazard areas.

This study will be undertaken by the Council in 2010 with participation and support by WorkSafeBC.

Recommendation 11:

That WorkSafeBC and the BC Forest Safety Council promote research into human factors and decision making involved in falling accidents.

WorkSafeBC will work with the Council and retain the services of researchers in this field with attention specifically focused on fallers. This work will be undertaken in 2010.

Recommendation 12:

That the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC develop an Industry Recommended Practice (IRP) for all aspects of tree falling, incorporating some of the progressive concepts and strategies already in existence in the industry.

The principles of an IRP are good steps in the process of developing industry best practices. This process is best handled by the Council in cooperation and consultation with WorkSafeBC.

Recommendation 13:

That the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC continue with, and expedite, the development of a falling supervisor competency matrix and occupational training curriculum (DACUM)

This recommendation is completed. The competency matrix and DACUM for the faller supervisor is completed and is awaiting implementation.

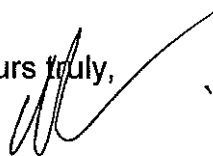
It should also be noted that Part 26 (Forestry Operations) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation was recently strengthened with new regulations that became effective May 1, 2008. A summary of the highlights of these new regulations is as follows:

- Prime Contractors (s 26.1.1)
 - new requirements that a prime contractor (appointed under section 118 of the Act) must be qualified in respect of the particular workplace and must have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of prime contractor at that workplace;
- Planning (s. 26.2(2))
 - new requirement that the owner of a forestry operation must ensure that all activities are both planned and conducted in a manner consistent with safe work practices;
 - new requirement that everyone with knowledge and control of a particular activity in a forestry operation must ensure it is planned and conducted consistent with safe work practices;
- Initial safety meeting (s. 26.5)
 - increased requirement to ensure every forestry worker receives a safety orientation before starting work at a new location;
- Identification of hazard areas and safe work areas (s. 26.14.1 and 26.14.2)
 - new requirements to address the worker-machine interface – must identify hazard areas of logging equipment, must designate safe work areas for workers, and must control worker-machine interaction in those areas;
- Falling supervisor (s. 26.22.1)
 - new requirement that a falling supervisor must be designated for all falling activities in forestry operations;
 - new requirement that the falling supervisor must ensure all falling activities are planned and conducted in accordance with the Regulation, inspect the workplace of each faller at appropriate intervals, and keep a record of each inspection;
- Log Hauling (s. 26.71.1 and 26.71.2)
 - new requirements that log truck operators must drive at a safe speed having regard to relevant listed factors, not operate a log transporter while impaired by fatigue or other causes, and must maintain a daily log book;

- Added flexibility for industry innovation
 - new provisions to allow for innovation - if approved by an engineer or if a safe work practice acceptable to the Board [e.g., equipment capabilities (s. 12.1.1) and dealing with partially-cut trees (ss. 26.25 and 26.29.3)].

We appreciate the work of the Coroner's Office and the opportunity afforded to our staff to participate in the review and to respond to these recommendations. The deaths of these three tree fallers were tragic events. We remain committed to working with all of the workplace parties in eliminating death and serious injuries in this sector.

Yours truly,



Roberta Ellis
Vice President Policy Investigations and Review Divisions
WorkSafeBC

Copies to:

Dave Anderson, President and CEO, WorkSafeBC
Betty Pirs, Executive Director, Worker and Employer Services Division, WorkSafeBC
Anne Burch, Director, Policy and Research Division, WorkSafeBC



BC Forest Safety Council

Unsafe is Unacceptable

December 11th, 2009

Mr. Norm Leibel
Deputy Chief Coroner
Metrotower II
Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC, V5H 4N2

Dear Mr. Leibel:

Re: BC Forest Safety Council - Response to the BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel Report and Recommendations

The BC Forest Safety Council ("Council") has received and reviewed the findings and recommendations of the above mentioned report. The Council supports the intent of the recommendations to reduce faller fatalities and injuries. The Panel's recommendations will be considered and factored appropriately into the Council's overall Work Plan with the expectation the work will begin in early 2010.

I wish to thank the Chief Coroner and the Panel participants for the important work completed on this report and look forward to the next steps towards making hand falling of timber a safer occupation.

Yours truly,

Reynold Hert
Chief Executive Officer
BC Forest Safety Council

27 November, 2009

Norman Leibel,
Deputy Chief Coroner
BC Coroners Service
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Office of the Chief Coroner:
Metrotower II
Suite 800, 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4N2

Dear Mr. Leibel,

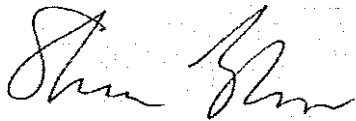
Thank you for bringing the findings and recommendations of Coroner's Panel Report to the attention of the Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP).

The coroner's report does address safety concerns that are important to forest professionals and the profession in BC. While we appreciate that recommendation number 14 is directed to the ABCFP and the Ministry of Forest and Range (MFR) and that recommendation number 2 references the ABCFP, we have looked at all of the report recommendations to see where the profession could assist and affect safety for manual fallers in BC. Your letter of November 2, 2009, asks that the ABCFP provide details of any plan to address the recommendations. The ABCFP is pleased to provide you a list of the following actions planned or currently being undertaken by the profession:

1. Bylaw direction to members: The ABCFP has added a standard of practice for safety in the ABCFP Bylaws that was then ratified by the membership.
2. Guideline for interpretation: The Professional Practice Committee of the ABCFP has drafted an Interpretative Guideline defining the culture of safety relative to professional work. The document is currently under review by the MFR and WorkSafeBC.
3. Work with other partners: The ABCFP has collaborated with the MFR regarding safe forest practices. The ABCFP intends to broaden its consultation regarding professional work and a culture of safety to the BC Forest Safety Council, University of British Columbia, WorkSafeBC, and our industry partners.
4. Guidance documents for registered forest professionals: The ABCFP will be exploring the opportunities for establishing additional guidance for forest practitioners to further the culture of safety in professional work in general, and planning in particular.
5. Professional development: The ABCFP will be incorporating safety into professional development for forest professionals, especially as it relates to harvest operations planning.

The ABCFP has a public interest mandate in the *Foresters Act* (2003) that carries a duty with respect to our partnership in the culture of safety in forestry. It is the duty of the ABCFP to serve and protect the public interest in the practice of professional forestry.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon Glover".

Sharon L. Glover, MBA
Chief Executive Officer



Natural Resources Canada Ressources naturelles Canada

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0E4

Explosives Regulatory Division
1431 Merivale Road

Division de la réglementation des explosifs
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DEC 17 2009

MINISTRY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

Mr. N Leibel
Office of the Chief Coroner
Metrotower II
Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
V5H 4N2

11 December 2009

Dear Mr. Leibel,

BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel Report and Recommendations

This letter acknowledges receipt of the report forwarded by you on 2 November 2009.

I have sent the report and recommendations to the Explosives Regulatory Division's Quantity/Distance and Storage Committee for consideration at their next meeting, which is scheduled for 28 January 2010.

I will contact you following their meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher G. Watson
Chief Inspector of Explosives
tel; 613-948-5170
email; cwatson@nrca.gc.ca,
Natural Resources Canada, 1431 Merivale Rd, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G1

cc R. Boulay
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