



Purpose

This bulletin is intended to highlight current and/or emerging safety issues and provide additional safety information to BC Timber Sales forest sector clients (agreement holders and contractors).

Construction Initiated Slides

Slides initiated during road construction can be very serious and while there have been no fatalities to date; these events have considerable human, environmental and operational costs.

Top 5 things you can do to mitigate this hazard

1. Watch for key site indicators i.e. *unstable soils, seepage, wet Site vegetation, organic soils, smooth bedrock etc...*
2. Know and follow The Plan
3. Know where you are at all times
4. Take extra caution at transition zones
5. If things don't look right STOP WORK and seek advice



For more information, checkout the following sites

- Operator awareness video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYbnMZlcqmU>
- Awareness presentation power point <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/CISWG-RC-Training-Pres.pptx>
- BC Forest Safety Council website <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2713>

Phase Congestion

Phase congestion poses a significant risk to worker safety. The BC Forest Safety Council defines phase congestion as “a situation where different logging phases — such as planning, falling, road construction, production or blasting, etc. — become bunched up or congested, with an increased risk of negatively affecting the productivity and safety of each phase, putting workers at higher risk of an upset or incident.”

BCTS considers adjacent operations and phase congestion during our planning activities. Potential hazards are identified and made known during project advertising and within project plans.

What steps are you taking to manage phase congestion?

For more information, checkout the following sites

- Phase congested video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ux13XTRSKU>
- BC Forest Safety Council <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2615>
- Worksafe BC <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/hazard-alerts/licenseesowners-are-you-planning-and-conducting-your-forestry-operation-to-prevent-phase-congestion?lang=en&direct>

Ground-based Equipment on Steep Slopes

BCTS has procedures in place to ensure steep slope hazards (35%>) are made known to our clients such as including slope information on project maps and or project documents.

BCTS clients are reminded of slope limitation requirements under WorkSafeBC Section 26.16 for ground based equipment on slopes exceeding 35% (rubber tire skidder) and 40% (tracked machines). **These requirements include:**

- a) Completing a steep slope assessments
- b) Developing safety work procedures to ensure stability of equipment
- c) Communicating procedures/plan to workers
- d) Do not operate where stability cannot be assured



For further information go to

- WorkSafeBC <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-26-forestry-operations>
- Steep Slope Logging Resource Package http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/res_xSteepSlopeLogging.pdf
- BCTS Steep Slopes Staff Guide <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/safety/manual/steepsloperr.pdf>

Manual Falling and Falling Supervisors

BCTS contracts have specific requirements in place when Manual Falling is required for Fallers and Falling Supervisors.

The Contractor must ensure that:

- a) All hand falling is undertaken by Fallers certified by BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) or ENFORM and are qualified for the slope and timber conditions being addressed;
- b) A qualified Falling Supervisor satisfactory to the Province is designated for all forestry related hand falling activities and for all non-forestry related hand falling activities taking place.
- c) A Falling Plan must be developed with full engagement by a Falling Supervisor

Falling Supervisors will be deemed qualified only if they have completed the Falling Supervisor Training course provided by the B.C. Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) or are BCFSC certified Falling Supervisors.

BC Timber Sales will require the contractor to complete and submit a Manual Falling Verification Form prior to commencing operations. This is to help BCTS ensure that contractors are following the applicable OHS regulations.

For more information go to

- BCFSC <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2516>
- BCTS staff guide <https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/safety/manual/manfallguide.pdf>



Roadside Hazardous Debris

On steep ground, excessive roadside debris can create significant hazards for fallers and others who work below.

Take steps to eliminate Roadside Hazardous Debris

For more information go to <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2858>

Roadside Debris Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rANydlx-aA&feature=youtu.be>

OHSR 26.80 Creating additional hazards

Road or skid trail construction, including any blasting activity, must be carried out in a manner that prevents hangups, hanging broken tops or limbs, leaners, sidebind of pushed trees, or similar hazards which could endanger fallers or other workers.



Water Transportation

The use of Small Commercial Marine vessels is a common practice in the forest industry, especially on the coast. The responsibility is on the owner/operator of the vessel to ensure the applicable Transport Canada and other related requirements are being met.

These include;

- Developing procedures for safe vessel operation in normal and emergency conditions
- Ensuring crew members are properly trained to carry out their duties
- Ensuring necessary certification is in place to operate the vessel

Together the owner and operator must make sure the vessel operates safely and is properly equipped for emergency situations



For more information on Water Transportation requirements go to;

- Marine Passenger Safety Guide <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/files/MPSG.pdf>
- Requirements for Small Commercial Marine Vessels <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/oep-vesselreg-menu-728.htm>
- Small Vessel Compliance Program <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/svcp-menu-3633.htm>
- Inspection and Certification requirements for 15 to 150 gross tonnage vessel <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-small-vessels-csv-15-150-1633.htm>
- Small Commercial Vessel Guide <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp14070-menu-1648.htm>

