



Your Take on Safety



By Ginette Dodd

Safety Coordinator, Office Manager and Co-Owner
Alex Dodd Contracting Ltd.

Since 2009, Ginette Dodd, has been dedicated to providing safety excellence for the employees of Alex Dodd Contracting Ltd. As co-owner, office manager and active safety coordinator for her company, Ginette finds creative ways to get safety resources into the hands of the drivers who work various shifts and hours.

As a retired registered nurse, Ginette has an extensive background in health and safety. She is a past member of the infection control committee and continues to hone her safety skills with on-going BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) training and SAFE Companies Small Employers Training.

We asked Ginette to share her ideas and safety tips to help provide some insight into how others companies can adopt some of the innovative ways she incorporates safety resources into her daily business practices to ensure all her drivers receive safety notifications.

Describe the best practises policies you have implemented for your safety updates:

I include our safety updates in our monthly safety meeting notes. Our drivers work all different hours and shift work making it difficult to gather everyone in one place all at one time so we email our safety meeting notes to all the drivers. Once they read the contents, they reply via email, text or in person to confirm that they have read them. We have a group meeting in person once or twice a year.

What resources do you access to keep your crew informed on safety procedures and updates?

I use the Forest Safety Newsletter. The information in the Transportation Section has great content for sharing with our drivers and I will add an article or two from there.

The BCFSC offers free posters, brochures, postcards and stickers. I have most of these in my office and I try to choose one safety issue that relates to the article in the magazine.

I also include any recent close calls or incidents in our safety meeting notes. I use safety alerts that I have found on the BCFSC website or use ones that are emailed to us from local mills.

I have recently found a link on the BCFSC website where we can make up our own safety alerts. I print these Alerts and post them in the shop as well as add them to the safety meeting notes that I email to our employees.

I also use WorkSafeBC website to find interesting safety information as well.

How do you use the safety resources you have on hand to promote safety in your workplace?

I put the stickers or brochures in our employees pay envelopes, add a label that I've made to the back of the envelopes to let them know there is important safety information enclosed in their paystub envelopes. I also hang the safety poster in the shop as well. The monthly stickers, labels, posters and brochures are all based on the same safety topic to reinforce the safety message.

How do you enhance the BCFSC safety resources and tailor them for your own use?

I use the images from the BCFSC website (posters or brochures). I use a snipping tool on my computer to copy and save the image to my desktop.

I can then add the images to my own Alex Dodd Contracting branded stickers which I print out using Avery easy peel address labels. I add my own wording to the label and put the stickers on our employees pay envelopes.

What kind of tips and tricks can you offer other companies to adopt to keep their safety procedures/updates interesting and fresh?

Go to different websites such as BCFSC, WorkSafeBC, Truck Logger's Association, Road Safety at Work for resources to gather safety information that would be beneficial to your drivers/employees. There are so many downloadable options for safety resources available on the internet that can help keep employees safe.

I suggest keeping things interesting by changing stickers, brochures and posters frequently so employees have something new and informative to read.

Describe what a typical safety update with your crew might look like?

We see most of our drivers throughout the day on Fridays or Saturdays and we take that opportunity to go over safety issues.

Continued on page 20...



Your Take on Safety

Continued from page 19...

Drivers bring their trucks to the shop to wash and grease and they make a list of all maintenance repairs that are required on their truck and trailers. Alex will have one-on-one conversations with drivers about any safety issues relating to their truck and I send out emails once a month to all drivers and text them at the same time to let them know to check their emails.

What are you most proud of when it comes to safety in your workplace?

We take pride in maintaining our fleet in top running condition. When your equipment is in good mechanically safe working

condition, the chances of accidents decreases. Our drivers are all loyal, very safety conscious and are open-minded with good attitudes towards our safety programs.

We are also very proud that our senior, more experienced drivers, are willing to mentor our newer drivers. They are happy to pass on their experience and knowledge to others which can be priceless.

We educate and remind drivers about general and local safety issues on a regular basis. We recently joined Interfor's Elite Truckers Program and have discussed all the expected safety issues with the drivers involved. Our drivers understand their responsibilities regarding safety, seat belt

use and PPE responsibilities. They are educated on how to use the dash cam and E-log, and understand overweight compliance.

The participating trucks involved with the Elite Trucker's Program are all equipped with dash cams and E-logs, and the logging trucks must also pass Mo Barry's mechanical inspections (First Choice, Truck Safety & Consulting) every quarter and pass with minimum score of 95%. This program aims to encourage safe driving behaviour and the safe operation and maintenance of equipment. We are proud to be participating in this program. 🌲



Fleet of trucks: Alex Dodd Contracting Ltd.
(photo courtesy of Theresa Braaten of Indigo Thyme Imagery)

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