

# FOREST SAFETY

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## In the Know

BCFSC is adding a couple of new items to Forest Safety News. In this issue, we have included a new column titled **What's New** which features links to all the new safety resources and information BCFSC has developed for industry to download and share with employees, industry and safety peers as well as information from industry partners.

In December, we are also adding a new **Ask Me Anything** article where BCFSC Safety Advisors or Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will answer your safety-related questions. If you have a question you would like to submit, simply email us at [editor@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafe.org) or connect with us on **Facebook**, then look for your answer in the next issue of Forest Safety News. If your question can't wait, contact any of our Safety Advisors by phone or email and we will be happy to talk to you. 📞

Welcome to the Fall edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at [editor@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafe.org) or call **1-877-741-1060**.

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**SAFE Companies**    [safeco@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:safeco@bcforestsafe.org)    **1-877-741-1060**

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Cariboo Chilcotin & Peace Region	Lisa Banner	<a href="mailto:lbanner@bcforestsafe.org">lbanner@bcforestsafe.org</a>	250-713-3705
Central Interior	Mike Pottinger	<a href="mailto:mpottinger@bcforestsafe.org">mpottinger@bcforestsafe.org</a>	778-269-1834
Okanagan & Kootenays	Jerry Kirouac	<a href="mailto:jkirouac@bcforestsafe.org">jkirouac@bcforestsafe.org</a>	250-616-0962
Northern BC & Peace Region	Tyler Bartels	<a href="mailto:tbartels@bcforestsafe.org">tbartels@bcforestsafe.org</a>	250-327-3046

### Falling Safety Advisors - covering all of BC

David Adshead	<a href="mailto:dadshead@bcforestsafe.org">dadshead@bcforestsafe.org</a>	778-349-5084
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## What's New

**What's New** is a new feature in Forest Safety News that will provide readers with the latest news, resources and information BCFSC and industry partners have rolled out since the previous FSN issue.

You will find direct links to new safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more for you to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. We also share this information in real-time as it becomes available by posting it on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) as well as [tweeting](#). **Follow us on our social media accounts to stay up to date with the latest news.**

Take a look at the latest list of what we have to offer since May 2020.

**COVID-19 Webpage** – since the global pandemic announcement in March 2020, the BCFSC developed a dedicated webpage for industry to access COVID-19 resources and information. As BC moved throughout its four-phased approach, we

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revamped the page accordingly providing Restart Planning information by organizing information by sector including Harvesting, Transportation, Manufacturing, Silviculture, Contractors and Auditors. This page is updated regularly as new information becomes available.

### Best Practices in Managing Combustible Gas

The Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC)'s Safety Committee has produced an educational video to help operators minimize the risks associated with syngas. The video describes how and where combustible gas will accumulate during the pellet manufacturing process and gives recommendations for reducing risk. We encourage everyone involved in wood pellet manufacturing to take the time to view the video as part of our collective commitment to a safer wood pellet industry.

**Phase Congestion** – There is a new online training resource for Phase Congestion and Safe Phase Integration now available on our Phase Management Resource Page.

**COVID-19 Psychological Support Toolkit for Workers and Supervisors** - COVID-19 has redefined the workplace and brought unprecedented psychological and psycho-social impacts to workers and organizations. The BC Municipal Safety Association has partnered with several Health and Safety Associations including the BCFSC to deliver a FREE Psychological Support Toolkit that includes information packs, checklists, quality resources and access to the Five-Part Virtual Summit and online discussion forums. This new toolkit will allow workers and employers to develop skills to better manage the stressors of COVID-19 by learning how to address problems, apply simple tools and access additional resources and education.

**Submitting SAFE Audits** – SAFE Companies has provided a dedicated webpage to explain the process for submitting audits during COVID-19 safety protocols.

**Training Calendar** – Check out our upcoming online and in-classroom courses. Classroom participants must follow BCFSC COVID-19 safety protocols.

**Safety Alerts** – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and

post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- [BCFSC Alert - Dusty Conditions on Forest Service Roads](#)
- [BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month - Wildfire Hazards](#)
- [Industry Alert - Silviculture Operations Hazard](#)
- [Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert](#)

**To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#)**

**Safety Resources** – BCFSC continues to develop online safety resources for industry. All our resources can be accessed from our website to download and share with employees and crews.

- [MAG Crew Talks](#) - Our double-sided pdf crew talks are sent out weekly with different topics to support your safety conversation at the beginning of meetings, pre-job/shift meetings and/or JOHSC meetings.
- [Healthy Worker Resources](#) – BCFSC has developed a series of resources with Dr. Delia Roberts. Our posters, crew talk sheets and backgrounders offer information on various topics to help encourage workers to maximize their health at work and at home. So far, we have rolled out six key topics on Vision and Hearing, Balance and Agility, Components of Fitness, Blood Pressure and Cardiovascular Health, Diabetes and Fatigue and Sleep Health with four more topics under development.
- [New Falling Resource: Trap Tree Resource Package](#) – The BCFSC Falling Department has just completed a resource package for Fallers and Falling Supervisors working on trap tree projects.

**BCFSC 2019 Annual Report and Ombudsman Report** - our 2019 Annual Report and Ombudsman report is now available on our website.

**WorkSafeBC** – since March 2020, WorkSafeBC has been providing employers and employees with vital COVID-19 safety protocols to help keep workers and workplaces safe, resuming operations and providing updates to employers and employees on regulations, reporting and submission deadlines for industry.

- [Forestry Safety: COVID-19](#) – visit this page to find protocols and guidance for employers in forestry field work.
- [COR Certified Employers](#) - Information update for COR certified employers.
- [WorkSafeBC Announcements](#) – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more.
- [Enews](#) – subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more.

**Shift Into Winter** – Winter driving regulations come into effect on October 1, 2020. As we head out of the summer months and into fall and winter, be sure you are prepared for changing road conditions. Visit the [Shift Into Winter](#) website to access safety information and tips on how to keep safe on the road this winter. And don't forget, winter tires or chains are required on most routes in BC from October 1 to March 31. Learn more about winter driving information by [clicking here](#).



# Best Practices in Managing Combustible Gas

Wood pellet plants produce syngas – a highly explosive mix of carbon monoxide, methane, hydrogen and other volatiles – during various stages of the pellet manufacturing process. This combustible gas is produced whenever biomass is subjected to high temperatures in a low-oxygen environment. It often accumulates within enclosed areas such as dryers, ducts, cyclones and piping. If not managed properly, syngas can cause catastrophic fires, explosions and deflagrations and resultant injuries, loss of life and equipment. This phenomenon is equally true for wood and agricultural biomass.

As a result of several recent syngas explosions, the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC)'s Safety Committee has developed a new educational video titled *Best Practices in Managing Combustible Gas* to help operators minimize the risks associated with syngas. Several partners including the University of British Columbia Biomass and Bioenergy Research Group, BC Forest Safety Council, BiomassCanada Cluster and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada provided technical and financial support to help produce it.



The [seven-minute video](#) is packed with vital information. It describes how and where combustible gas will accumulate during the pellet manufacturing process and gives recommendations for reducing risks such as:

- using back-up power during power outages to maintain extraction fans
- considerations for plant design

- determining locations and components that require inspections and regular cleaning to avoid syngas build-up
- using monitoring and alarm systems
- and operator training

We encourage everyone involved in wood pellet manufacturing to take the time to view it as part of our collective comment to a safer wood pellet industry. 🌱

## WPAC research director wins the 2020 Glen Downing Award

Article reprint from Canadian BioMass Magazine  
 Women in Forestry Feature  
 by Ellen Cools, July 10, 2020

The Canadian Society for Bioengineering/La Société Canadienne de Génie Agroalimentaire et de Bioingénierie (CSBE-SCGAB) council has awarded Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, the research and technical development director for the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC), the 2020 Glen Downing Award.

Panah received the award for her contributions to engineering for bioenergy and biological systems through her research and leadership activities. The CSBE-SCGAB council noted that in addition to her academic and professional qualifications, she has demonstrated the business acumen, technical expertise and skills necessary to succeed in all of her endeavours.

She was recognized at the CSBE-SCGAB council's virtual annual general meeting on July 21 and will be recognized during the rescheduled CSBE/CIGR conference next May in Quebec City. 🌱



Fahimeh Yazdan Panah presents at the Wood Products Safety Summit in Prince George, BC on June 12, 2019.

# Log Truck Driver's Safety Preparedness Saves Pick-Up Driver from a Fiery Crash

On July 22, 2020 emergency crews responded to a two-vehicle collision near the Nanaimo airport at Cedar Road. At around 6:00am, log truck driver Carl Wilson was hauling his fully loaded truck north on the Trans Canada Highway when he felt a “big bang” at the back of his truck.

After pulling over, Carl soon discovered a pick-up truck had slammed into the back of him and was wedged between the load. Mosaic Forest Management employee Darryl Slater, was driving southbound at the time and came across the accident just moments after impact.

A fire had started underneath the pick-up's hood and Carl quickly engaged his on-board safety equipment using his fire extinguisher to exhaust the flames with help from Slater who also assisted using the extinguisher from his own vehicle. Once the flames were under control enough to safely extract the driver, Carl, Darryl and two workers from the nearby Schnitzer Steel Recycling Facility proceeded to assist him to a safe location and administer a first aid assessment. The driver was coherent and apparently uninjured and able to wait for paramedics to arrive.

Carl then decided it was safe to return to the vehicle and attempt to extinguish the flames further. Darryl assisted Carl once he determined the driver was safe and they attempted to extinguish the fire until the extinguishers were exhausted. The fire began to grow shortly afterwards, and people were directed to move back. Emergency services arrived quickly and extinguished the fire completely and the pick-up driver was taken to hospital.

According to a [CTV news report](#), the North Oyster Fire Captain, Kristopher Hill, said Wilson “Definitely saved his life. The scene might have looked a lot different if he hadn't done what he did.”

Many factors played a part in turning this accident into a good news story. Thanks to Carl's years of experience, his alertness to his vehicle's behaviour, his level-headed assessment of the situation, his quick reaction to access his on-board safety equipment and the teamwork between Carl, Darryl and the two other men from the Schnitzer Steel Recycling Facility, a driver was saved from a life-threatening and potentially fatal incident. 🙏



Source: Darryl Slater, Mosaic



# Supporting Industry Through Improved Digital Communications

By Michele Fry, BCFSC Director of Communications

Whether you embrace social media or not, it is a powerful communications tool. Its widespread influence allows us all to reach out whenever we have something to say, 24/7, to anyone with digital connectivity. But social media platforms are only part of the digital revolution we are witnessing. In the first half of 2020, many organizations, including BCFSC, were required to transform the way our business was conducted by changing the way we communicated. Even in isolation we were able to continue to operate and conduct our day-to-day business by using technology to communicate with one another and share information.



During this time, BCFSC used many digital tools in conjunction with one another to share information. We developed a number of digital resources for COVID-19 safety protocols which were shared on our dedicated COVID-19 webpage and used email blasts and social media messaging including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to communicate with industry and encouraged companies to share information with employees, industry peers and across their own social media platforms.

We also made the decision to stop printing our quarterly Forest Safety Newsletter and publish it digitally from hereon in directing people to our website through email messaging and direct links from social media posts, industry shares and digital industry news forums such as [Tree Frog Forestry News](#).

The idea of using social media to just reconnect with high school friends seems quaint now. The impact of using digital communication methods to share information is not just a growing trend but has become the norm for a lot of businesses. The beauty of using digital methods to share information is, that for an organization such as ours, our members have opted to receive this information either by subscribing to receive emails or by following us on social media which means the information we send out is reaching a very targeted audience who are very keen on receiving it.

Using digital communication, we can speak directly to industry, in real time, and are able to share information from industry partners such as WorkSafeBC, Road Safety BC and the BC Wildfire Service. It also opens the door to broadcasting breaking news and sharing information more quickly from advisory groups like MAG, CHAG, WPAC and more. These coordinated efforts of sending information out collaboratively with forestry companies, advisory groups and industry peers help extend our reach on key safety messages and industry news and promotes the consistent application of safety practices across the province.

Social media is changing traditional media: it's an honest fact. Information has shifted to crowd-based influencers interested in information specific to their interests and willing to share this information with their peers. The challenge is finding those influencers who are willing to share your message. As technology grows and expands, our range of communication via social media and beyond is becoming a vital tool for daily social interaction. Digital communication creates opportunity for people to interact with each other in a way that is both helpful in sharing the message and essential to making an impact to Ensure Every Forestry Worker Goes Home Safe. Every day.

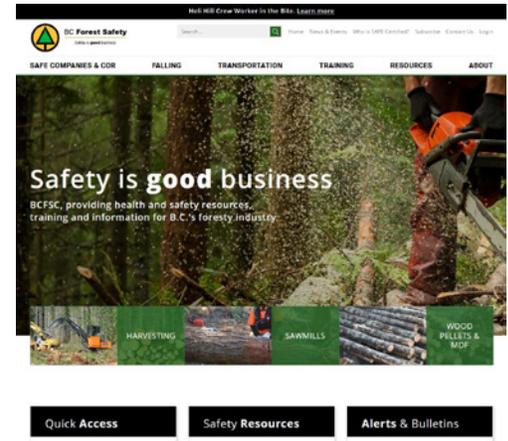
If you haven't done so already, subscribe to our email alerts, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram and subscribe to our YouTube channel to stay informed on industry-related news, safety information and new resources that will help keep you and your co-workers stay safe. 🍄

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## A New Face for the BCFSC Website

Back in December 2019, we announced we were working on a new website for 2020. We engaged a website design firm to re-develop our existing website with a new updated look that will be easier to navigate with simplified, filtered search options for easier access to resources and improved navigation tools for a better user experience. The anticipated launch date is still targeted for 2020 as we continue to load in content from our old website to our new one.

The revamp of our website was part of our 2020 communications strategy to improve distribution and awareness of industry current best practices, guidelines and standards and be recognized as an industry leader for value-added health and safety and training resources. The development of this new website was a large undertaking but a necessary one to be more mobile friendly and provide better functionality for desktop users. With the integration of our website and our new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, we will now be able to offer our website visitors and users a better way of accessing information on their mobile devices or desktop computers. Stay tuned for more on our website launch. 📱



## WorkSafeBC Virtual Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

WorkSafeBC will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation that affect the forestry industry.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, the public hearing will be held virtually and will be available by live stream in two sessions.

The first session will take place from 11:00am to 1:00pm and the second from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Details on how to view or participate in public hearings will be posted on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) and communicated through e-news by September 1, 2020.

[Click here](#) to view the proposed amendments with explanatory notes relating to the following:

- Part 6 - Restricted entry intervals for pesticide application
- Part 8 - High visibility apparel
- Part 8 - Safety headgear\*
- Part 16 - Mobile equipment
- Part 18 - Traffic control
- Part 21 - Blasting operations

*\*Public consultation for this item closed on July 31, 2020 and WorkSafeBC is reviewing the feedback. Proposed amendments will be posted prior to the public hearing.*

### How to provide feedback

WorkSafeBC welcomes your feedback on the proposed amendments by written submission or by participation at the virtual public hearing. Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30pm on Friday, October 2, 2020.

All feedback received will be presented to WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors for their consideration.

For more information on how to provide feedback on the proposed amendments, please visit [WorkSafeBC](https://worksafebc.com). 📱

## Cone Zone Campaign Urges Drivers to Slow Down and Pay Attention at Cone Zones

The annual Cone Zone campaign is well-underway to improve the safety of people working along the roadside. The on-going campaign, supported by WorkSafeBC, Work Zone Safety Alliance and the RCMP Lower Mainland District Integrated Road Safety Unit, is in its tenth year and urges employers, workers and drivers to do their part to prevent injuries and deaths of roadside workers.

Roadside work is a dangerous job. Last year, one roadside worker died as a result of being hit by a motor vehicle and 19 were injured. Between 2010 and 2019, 13 roadside workers were killed and 204 were injured.

The risks to roadside workers are high in the summer months as roadside work and traffic levels across the province increases. Traffic is much busier this year as well as many British Columbians are travelling within the province due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This campaign reminds drivers to slow down when approaching a Cone Zone and to pay attention to instructions from traffic control persons, temporary road signs and traffic control devices. Every worker deserves to go home safely at the end of their shift.

In addition, under the "Slow Down, Move Over" law, drivers should be prepared to reduce speed and move over to an open lane when driving near a vehicle with flashing amber, red, or blue lights (tow, fire, police, ambulance).

As part of the campaign, a traffic enforcement blitz will occur at roadside work zones. Tickets will be issued for violations, such as speeding, disobeying a flag person, or using an electronic device while driving.

Cone Zones are work areas set up by roadside workers to protect themselves and the driving public. Road-maintenance crews, tow truck operators, first responders, municipal workers, traffic control persons, construction crews and other roadside workers all depend on drivers to respect the Cone Zone to keep their workplaces safe.

Look for these major provincial projects that are underway:

- Hwy 91/17 Deltaport Way Project
- Hwy 1 Lower Lynn
- Hwy 4 Kennedy Hill
- Massey Tunnel Project

To learn more about the Cone Zone Campaign, visit [WorkSafeBC](https://worksafebc.com). 📱

