



Standardized Faller Inspection Form for Industry

By Scott Rushton
BCFSC Lead Safety Advisor

During field visits around the province in the last few years, one of the widespread patterns the Falling Safety Advisors (FSA's) observed was the inconsistent use of supervisor inspections being performed on hand fallers. The importance of proper supervision of hand fallers cannot be overstated.

As per OHS regulation 26.22.1(2), the supervisor must keep a record of every inspection. The FSA's noticed that there was a wide variety of falling inspection forms being used. Some were very detailed, multiple page inspection documents and some were very simple, one-page documents. I believe it is very important for the field inspection document to cover each part of the BC Faller Training Standard (BCFTS). I also believe the document does not need a numbered scoring system. The most effective way to maintain ongoing faller inspections is using a marking system to determine whether the faller is "meeting" or "below" each part identified in the BCFTS. Fallers marked as meeting the standard's parts will require no corrective action. But fallers marked as below will require the supervisor to show a corrective action on how it will be addressed and fixed.

Based on the wide variety of field inspection documents we observed, it was determined a new hand faller inspection document should be developed that is easy to use and tailored to track inspection requirements based on the BCFTS. With input and feedback from the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) and testing with falling companies in 2020, a new inspection document was developed. The goal is to replace the Certified Faller

Condensed Audit currently available on the BCFSC website with the industry-approved enhanced audit as the standardized falling inspection document.

I believe it's possible to raise the bar of faller supervisor to an even higher level by providing better tools to help supervisors do their jobs efficiently and effectively. Standardizing a simple-to-use audit document is a step in the right direction. 🚀

Faller Field Inspection
Based on the BC Faller Training Standard

Start Date:	End Date:
Faller's Name:	Company:
Supervisor:	Block#:
Timber Type:	Years' experience:
Licensee:	Geographical Area:
Harvesting type: Ground <input type="checkbox"/> RW <input type="checkbox"/> GY <input type="checkbox"/> Hill <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Prime Contractor:
Signature of Faller _____ Date _____	
Signature of Supervisor _____ Date _____	

Faller Inspection Comments
(What supervisor observed in the faller's work area and what was discussed with the faller)

Date:	Location:
Comments:	
Date:	Location:
Comments:	
Date:	Location:
Comments:	
Date:	Location:
Comments:	
Date:	Location:
Comments:	

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Faller Field Inspection
Based on the BC Faller Training Standard

Mark Meeting to indicate meeting the acceptable standard.
Mark Below to indicate not meeting the acceptable standard.
Include comments in each part based on observations.
ALL boxes marked Below Must have a corrective action in the comments.

Part 1: PPE Hard hat, face protection, hearing protection, hand protection, eye vis, leg protection, footwear (in good condition, meets the standard and consistently used). Pressure dressing, personal float kit (clean and dry) Has access to a radio. Whistle mounted on outside of clothing.	Meeting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Below: <input type="checkbox"/>
Part 2: Mental & Physical well-being Focused on the job, acceptable attitude, eats and drinks. Does some stretching and uses good body posture while working.	Meeting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Below: <input type="checkbox"/>
Part 3: Man Check Procedures and Transportation Frequent checks with partner or qualified assistance every 20-30 minutes. Written safe work procedures are in place for minimum and maximum distances between trees and other workers. Vehicles in good mechanical condition. Parked in a safe and appropriate location. Tools and equipment secured and stowed separately from workers. Appropriate communication systems is available and working. Fire extinguisher in truck.	Meeting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Below: <input type="checkbox"/>
Part 4: First Aid and ERP FIRST AID personal and equipment that meets the requirements of OHS Regulation for the site. Knows how to locate the ERP. Knows the location of the first aid attendant, nearest ETV and first aid supplies.	Meeting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Below: <input type="checkbox"/>
Part 5: Initial Safety Meeting Has participated in an initial safety meeting for the falling area. Potential hazards communicated to the faller. Proper signage in place. Knowledge of SWP for entering falling area. Knowledge of SWP for entering and exiting a faller's active work area.	Meeting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Below: <input type="checkbox"/>
Part 6: Adverse Weather Conditions Is wearing and/or has available clothing appropriate to conditions. Is aware of weather-related shutdown criteria. Emergency access/egress concerns are assessed.	Meeting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Below: <input type="checkbox"/>

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Sample of the standardized Faller Field Inspection Form

2021 – Looking Up

By David Adshead
BCFSC Lead Safety Advisor

Happy 2021!

As these challenging past two years fade away, we look forward to what 2021 has in store for Falling programs. The BCFSC's Falling Department has numerous programs and projects planned for this year with a collective goal to improve faller safety.

Update Falling Supervisor Program

One key project we are addressing is updating the Falling Supervisor Program to meet the evolving needs identified by industry. We are working closely with the Falling Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) and industry subject matter experts to redesign the Falling Supervisor Course as a blend of online, in-class and in-field components. We are also updating the certification process by moving from a point-based assessment to an assessment that clearly identifies the safety critical

components for supervision. Providing recommendations and gap training plans will provide continual improvement to vital components of the program.

Faller and Falling Supervisor Support when Training a Trainee

Falling Safety Advisors (FSAs) provide advocacy and support to Falling Supervisors and Fallers as they take on Faller Trainees to build their skills, knowledge and experience as they

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progress towards certification. If you are an employer, Falling Supervisor or Faller looking to take on a Faller Trainee, FSA's are available to provide information, guidance and support through the BCFSC Falling Safety Advocacy Program. FTAC identified this as a top action item and it is a key priority of the FSAs for 2021.

Company Reviews

Last year the FSAs performed numerous company reviews with falling contractors around the province. Requests for company reviews come from licensees, prime contractors and individual contractors. These advocacy visits are an opportunity for companies to have their safety management system and hand falling practices reviewed by an FSA. During a review, an FSA spends time observing the Falling Supervisor and the Faller's work and provides feedback on the observations. These visits are an opportunity for the FSAs to listen to concerns, ideas and experiences of individuals in the falling community. This information helps identify trends, innovative ideas and safety concerns that FTAC uses to develop work plan items. For more information on company reviews and the BCFSC Falling Safety Advocacy Program, contact the Falling Department or visit [our webpage](#).

Falling Resource Packages (2020)

FTAC initiated three resource packages in 2020 which have now been the BCFSC website. **Trap Tree, Glading and Fall & Burn** were developed with industry input and provide information for companies and individuals who may engage in these forest industry-related activities. The resource packages address the challenges faced by fallers and falling supervisors working and planning hand falling activities for these types of projects and provide information, regulatory requirements and resource links for hand faller safety. To access these resource packages, visit [our webpage](#).

Safe Work Procedures when Bucking Timber

Hand falling is considered dangerous work. But many injuries and fatalities have occurred during bucking work. Bucking



Faller brushing out work area and escape trail before making bucking cuts.

felled wood is often done on rough, steep terrain along the falling face or in a heli-logging setting. Following safe work procedures and recognizing unsafe conditions can reduce the risks associated with bucking activities. Using qualified assistance and having alternate methods available are useful measures to control the hazards.

WorkSafeBC has identified some well-known unsafe work practices in their [Designated High-Risk Violations for Hand Falling or Bucking](#) document that have contributed to many serious incidents. This document refers to Falling OR Bucking! An important factor to remember is you need to clear your work area for every cut you make and have an escape trail. Safe bucking procedures involve planning the cuts by:

- Assessing the canopy
- Assessing log stability
- Identifying bind and pivot points
- Choosing the safest place to cut

A working forest is a hazardous place for every task so always identify and create a way out. Regardless of the work you are doing, the old phrase “plan the work and work the plan” rings true. 🚧

New Faller Training

Three new faller training courses are scheduled for 2021. COVID-19 protocols and precautions will be in place to ensure the participant and trainer safety.

For questions about the new faller training program, please visit the [BCFSC website](#) or email faller@bcforestsafesafe.org.

Course Dates 2021 – course locations TBD

March 2 – April 3, 2021

April 20 – May 22, 2021

September 27 – October 29, 2021

To register, please contact the College of the Rockies at [250-344-5901](tel:250-344-5901). 📞