

## Meet the falling safety advisors

### Scott Rushton, Certified Faller, QST, Certified Falling Supervisor



Scott started out in forestry over 30 years ago as a chokerman, landing man in 1985 with Dougan Logging before moving onto MacMillan Bloedel / Weyerhaeuser where he was chokerman, landing man, hooktender boom man, hoe operator and faller from 1988 to 2004. From 2004 to 2015 he was a faller/falling supervisor starting with Vernon Ridge Holdings (2004-2006), then Antler Creek Logging (2006-2012) and Black Summit Falling (2012-2015). Scott joined the BCFSC in 2015.

*“Safety is everyone’s responsibility. Never accept unsafe work and never look the other way. We are in this together.”*

Call: 250-735-2850 / Email: [srushton@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:srushton@bcforestsafesafe.org)



### David Adshead, Certified Faller, QST, certified danger tree blaster, critical incident investigator

David has more than 30 years’ experience in the forest industry as a hand faller, equipment operator, contractor and supervisor. He started seasonal work in 1984 with Bell Pole Company, Revelstoke Division, operating a log loader and other equipment as well as doing hand bucking and processing poles. David started his own company in 1986 to fell and buck old growth cedar before becoming Selkirk Trading’s operations manager for two years and then operating as a logging contractor in the Columbia, Kootenay and Cariboo regions for two years. Prior to joining the BCFSC in 2014, David worked as an independent contractor for 17 years as a hand faller and supervisor in Revelstoke and coastal areas.

*“Being able to support fallers achieve safer workplaces is the best job in the world.”*

Call: 778-349-5084 / Email [dadshead@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:dadshead@bcforestsafesafe.org)

## Fees

There are no fees for safety advocacy services performed by BCFSC FSAs, as industry already contributes to the funding of the BCFSC. Services for other industries may be provided on a “fee for service” basis, subject to the availability of the FSAs.

As there are costs associated with offering safety advocacy, participants are required to give the same consideration as though they were paying for the service. If there is a need to cancel or postpone an appointment, at least 72 hours’ notice should be provided by both the participant or the FSA.

## How to request safety advocacy

Individuals or falling operations may request an advocacy visit by completing an advocacy request form and returning it to the BCFSC office for approval and administration. This form is accessible on our website:

[http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/frm\\_ApplicationFallingSafetyAdvocacy.pdf](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/frm_ApplicationFallingSafetyAdvocacy.pdf)

### Faller advocacy administration support:

Bridgette McKamey: [mckamey@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:mckamey@bcforestsafesafe.org)

Once the application has been received, a FSA will contact you.

## More information

### Falling Department:

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (PST)

Monday to Friday

Phone toll-free: 1-877-741-1060

Fax: 1-250-741-1068

Email: [faller@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:faller@bcforestsafesafe.org)



BC Forest Safety

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# FALLING

## Safety Advocacy

### Program Information



BC Forest Safety



The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) is a not-for-profit society funded and supported by industry.

The organization’s **Falling Safety Advocacy Program** is designed to assist and support all aspects of hand falling safety.

The BCFSC is committed to providing members, clients and all fallers with exceptional service. This includes providing accurate information and guidance to clients to ensure they make informed decisions.

To provide this kind of service to fallers, the BCFSC employs Falling Safety Advisors (FSAs). FSAs are QSTs, danger tree faller blasters and critical incident investigators.

They are highly-skilled and trained individuals who are qualified, certified and experienced to provide free advocacy services that support fallers, falling supervisors and companies that employ fallers.

The **Falling Safety Advocacy Program** includes the following services:

## Falling Supervisor Certification Preparation

FSA's can help prepare falling supervisors for certification by providing a cost-free preparation day. This day consists of a review of field activities and documentation. For more information on the Falling Supervisor Certification, please see:

<https://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/99>

## Faller visits

FSA's can visit fallers at their operation upon request. FSA's can present safety topics at crew meetings, inspiring discussions with fallers for important feedback. Evaluations and tours can also be arranged.

## Upgrade training for fallers

FSA's can provide training to any faller needing extra assistance in upgrading their falling skills. Requests may be made by a faller, the employer, or may be part of a WorkSafeBC order. This training is typically 1-5 days long, with the faller being mentored and assessed by a FSA. At the end of the training, the BCFSC will provide a report to the person that made the request for the training. A copy will also be given to the faller. Fallers must have current WorkSafeBC insurance coverage under their own or their employer's insurance plan during this training. Depending on the scope of training needed, this service is at the discretion of the BCFSC.

## Confidential company reviews

As the health and safety association supporting the forest industry, the BCFSC's FSA's can perform confidential reviews of a company's faller safety systems to support their effectiveness and success. FSA's will visit an active production site and perform a review based on industry best practice, and share

recommendations based on the findings.

All information belongs to the company and is held confidential between the FSA and the company.

No records are retained by the BCFSC; however, FSA trips are recorded for financial purposes and general information may be used to identify trends.

## Critical incident investigation support

In the unfortunate event of a serious incident, FSA's are available to support the impacted organization with incident investigations. FSA's who are trained critical incident investigators can attend the operation and assist the company with their investigation, with the BCFSC acting in an advisory capacity to the company. All reports and photos are the property of the company and no records will be maintained by the BCFSC.

## Dangerous tree faller blasting support

Dangerous tree faller blasting has become an essential part of harvesting trees in order to mitigate risks to hand fallers. Fallers are often confronted with dangerous trees such as jackpots, hang-ups, or windthrow stacks.

Dangerous tree blasting assists fallers to work safely and effectively with explosives to remove trees that are dangerous to fall by conventional methods. According to the Workers Compensation Act Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 26.26(3):

*"If conventional methods cannot be safely employed to fall a dangerous tree, blasting or other acceptable methods must be used."*

The BCFSC provides access to dangerous tree blasting training, run by Dave "Dazy" Weymer of D/T Blasting.

For additional resources on danger tree blasting, please see:

- Dangerous Tree Faller Blasting, BCFSC: [https://youtu.be/5w\\_gQP-xDeY](https://youtu.be/5w_gQP-xDeY)
- Dangerous Tree Faller Blasting, Below Road Right of Way: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rwc7vvFPg4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rwc7vvFPg4)
- BCFSC dangerous tree blasting training information: [www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1580](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/1580)
- WorkSafeBC OHS Regulation Part 21 Blasting Operations: [www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-21-blasting-operations](http://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-21-blasting-operations)

## Contract supervisor awareness training

FSA's can provide some initial training to contract managers that hire falling contractors to help them understand what is required for engaging hand fallers.