

Chapter 2: BC Timber Sales Safety Policy

Introduction

The BCTS safety policy is the fundamental building block of the OHS program. The policy describes the principles committed to by the organization, management, supervisors and workers. The remainder of the manual builds on these commitments.

Safety Policy Review and Revision

BCTS employees have the opportunity on an ongoing basis to provide input on changes to the BCTS safety policy to local management.

At least once each year, during the overall BCTS safety program management review, senior management will review the policy and all input received on changes required to the policy. Senior management will then make necessary changes to ensure the policy remains applicable to the operations of BCTS and reflects the safety commitments of the organization. Final approval of the BCTS safety policy rests with the Assistant Deputy Minister, responsible for BCTS.

Safety Policy Communication

Key responsibilities and opportunities for communication include:

- Senior and local management will emphasize and communicate the policy at staff meetings
- Local management and supervisors communicate the policy at business area and safety meetings, and in employee orientations.
- Headquarters and business area safety contacts ensure the current policy is posted on the website and on bulletin boards in BCTS offices.
- First line supervisors and workers will ensure the current policy is included in their field safety handbooks and discussed at orientations and performance evaluations.

A copy of the policy will be located in this chapter of the safety manual. A copy of the policy suitable for printing and posting is located at

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/safety/manual/Chap02-1_SafetyPolicy.pdf

Local Procedures

None.

Forms and Checklists

None.

BC Timber Sales Safety Policy

BCTS is committed to maintaining an organizational culture where all staff proactively participate to ensure a safe and healthy workplace as a fundamental component of every day business.

The management of BCTS is committed to promoting incident free workplaces by:

1. Providing BCTS staff with opportunities for effective education, training, and supervision to minimize risk and the potential for injury;
2. Implementing, maintaining, monitoring and reporting on a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety Program that effectively covers the scope of BCTS operations;
3. Requiring compliance with applicable health and safety legislation, regulations, and jurisdictional requirements on BCTS operations;
4. Providing adequate resources to support the promotion and achievement of BCTS health and safety objectives;
5. Participating and collaborating with organizations within the overall forest industry sector to promote forest sector safety;
6. Subscribing to the Health and Safety Accord of the British Columbia Forest Industry and requiring companies who conduct operations under the overall BCTS program to obtain SAFE Company certification; and
7. Continually improving BCTS health and safety performance through evaluation of input from employees and other parties, periodic review of program elements, and monitoring other evolving and changing factors within the forest industry.

BCTS supervisory personnel will be accountable for ensuring employees are properly trained for their jobs, making employees aware of safety hazards, ensuring unsafe action or conduct is not tolerated in the workplace, and endorsing sound health and safety work practices on a daily basis.

BCTS workers will be accountable for conducting their work activities in accordance with sound health and safety practices and will endorse these practices with their fellow workers.

Dave Peterson
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Timber Sales