

## **Chapter 3: BC Forest Industry Health and Safety Accord**

### **Introduction**

The BC forest industry companies and associations that became the initial members of the Safety Council drafted and agreed upon the BC Forest Industry Health and Safety Accord as a base commitment to move forward and improve overall safety in the forest sector in British Columbia.

BCTS subscribes to the Health and Safety Accord. All BCTS employees need to understand the commitments outlined in the Accord.

### **BC Forest Industry Health and Safety Accord Review and Revision**

BCTS staff have the opportunity to provide input into changes to the BC Forest Industry Health and Safety Accord to local management and BCTS safety contacts. This input will be provided to senior management and recommended changes to the Accord will be taken by the BCTS Director on the BC Forest Safety Council to the Board of that organization for consideration by forest sector organization members.

### **Safety Policy Communication**

Key responsibilities and opportunities for communication include:

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

A copy of the Accord will be located in this chapter of the safety manual. A copy of the Accord suitable for printing and posting is located at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/safety/council-06-05-01-accord.pdf>

### **Local Procedures**

None.

### **Forms and Checklists**

None.

## THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACCORD OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST INDUSTRY

### Our Key Beliefs:

- We believe that all fatalities and injuries are preventable.
- We believe in a culture where the health and safety of all workers is an over-riding priority.
- We believe that excellence in health and safety is important to our long-term success.

### Shared Responsibility:

- We are collectively and individually responsible for the safety of all workers and all worksites.
- Individuals must assume responsibility for their own safety and the safety of co-workers by following all safety rules, procedures and practices; by refusing to perform unsafe work; and by taking collective responsibility for the unsafe conduct of others.
- Tenure holders, licensees and prime contractors must take a leadership role in ensuring worker health and safety and assuring accountability for safety on the worksite.

### Recognition of Safety Performance and Practices:

- The commitment to health and safety is to all workers, not just direct employees. When engaging contractors, sub-contractors and others to provide services, the selection process and administration of contracts will include recognition and support of good safety performance and practices.
- Employers will recognize and support the safety performance of their employees.
- All owners of forested lands, tenure holders and licensees will give weight to the safety record and current practices of companies in the awarding of contracts and in the determination of fees and levies.

### Commitment to Training and Supervision:

- We understand the importance of workers being fully prepared for the work they do and the provision of competent supervisors who will insist on and enforce safe work practices. All workers on the worksite must be competent and fully trained and certified for the work they are performing.

### Legislation:

- It is understood that the regulatory environment of the Forest Industry can have profound impacts on safety. Accordingly, government ministries and agencies must take into account the importance of health and safety when developing, reviewing and drafting applicable areas of law and regulation.

### Continual Improvement:

- We are committed to the on-going improvement of our practices and support efforts to develop and implement new methods, procedures and technologies that have the potential to improve safety.