



6951 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC  
Mailing Address: PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal, Vancouver BC, V6B 5L5  
Telephone 604 276-3100 Toll Free 1-888-621-7233 Fax 604 276-3247

**The *Workers Compensation Act* requires that the employer must post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at or near the workplace inspected for at least seven days, or until compliance has been achieved, whichever is the longer period. A copy of this report must also be given to the joint committee or worker health and safety representative, as applicable.**

A revised version of the *Workers Compensation Act* took effect on April 6, 2020. The B.C. government's revisions aim to make the Act easier to read and understand, and to reorganize the numbering to make laws easier to find. The revisions make no changes to B.C.'s laws concerning workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, and employers' assessment premiums. Please be aware there may be a transitional period where correspondence from WorkSafeBC may include references to either the previous Act or the revised Act. For more information, visit [www.worksafebc.com/WCA2019](http://www.worksafebc.com/WCA2019) or call the Prevention Information Line at 604.276.3100, or toll free within BC at 1.888.621.7233 (SAFE).

**Inspection Report #202117752008A**

Employer Name	Jobsite Inspected	Scope of Inspection
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	8 km Big Meadow FSR 150 Mile House BC	Fir beetle salvage harvesting

Date of Initiating Inspection	Date of This Inspection	Delivery Date of This Report	Delivery Method
Jan 25, 2021	Jan 25, 2021	Jan 27, 2021	Email

**THERE ARE ZERO (0) ORDERS OR OTHER ITEMS OUTSTANDING**

<b>ACTION MAY STILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE PLEASE READ FULL REPORT</b>
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## INSPECTION NOTES

This report is to document an inspection conducted as part of the Forestry High Risk Strategy – Hand Falling Team Initiative.

The Initiative focuses on compliance with the Workers' Compensation Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and the BC Falling Training Standard. The intent of this initiative is to reduce the number of serious injuries and fatalities in this sector.

On January 25, 2021 prevention officer Dean Redknap conducted an inspection of the falling activities at this site located near 150 Mile House on the Big Meadow Road. This site is a mature forest of predominantly interior Douglas Fir that has seen recent Fir Bark Beetle attacking some of the larger diameter trees in the area that are now being harvested as part of efforts to control the spread of the beetle and salvage the dead timber. Most of the trees observed being harvested are between 30cm-80cm average diameter. The ground is flat and there were no slopes observed in the work area. Trails have been identified and were being felled for ground skidding with a line skidder to a central landing area. There were six workers on-site at the time of this inspection.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is the Licensee/owner for this work site.

Peka Enterprises Ltd. has been designated by the owner as the prime contractor and is the employer for one of two BC Wildfire Service certified hand fallers on site.

Tom Alphonse Contracting has been hired by the prime contractor to be the falling supervisor.

Jordan Magnuson is an independent contract faller hired by the prime contractor and is one of two BCWS certified fallers.

There was not a representative for UBC on-site at the time of this inspection but a representative was reached by phone after the inspection.

The following was discussed with the workers and supervisor on-site and/or is provided here for reference:

### **Forestry High Risk Strategy**

Owners/Licensees, employers, contractors, supervisors and workers of forestry operations have an obligation to ensure that forestry operations are planned and conducted in a manner consistent with the Regulation and safe work practices. See Regulation referenced OHSR 26.2(1-4). A lack of proper planning has contributed to a significant number of incidents and accidents on forestry operations.

### **FALLING PLAN**

As per OHSR 26.2(3) a falling plan must be in place prior to commencement of manual tree falling activities. An effective falling plan must contain the following minimum information:

*Emergency Response Plan (ERP)* - The employer must determine how to effect rescue of an injured worker taking into consideration any potential barriers to first aid response and/or evacuation. This would include a first aid site assessment to determine any first aid equipment that may be required in addition to what is listed in Part 3 of the Regulation Schedule 3-A. Emergency contact information, latitude and longitude (GPS) location information must all be readily available.

*Hazard Assessment* - The falling plan must contain information of any site hazards that may pose an undue risk to the faller. (ie: roadside debris, excessive blow-down, terrain hazards etc.) The plan must have information of options or specific procedures for fallers to overcome any identified falling hazards.

*Procedures* - The falling plan must contain any procedures specific to the site, falling patterns, danger tree assessment protocols etc.

Falling plans should include a map to clearly identify any hazards or hazardous areas, access/egress routes, position of fallers and intended work progress plan. Falling Plans must be reviewed and understood by the faller.

**\*Observations:** The designated falling supervisor had prepared a falling plan for this site. We discussed details of the falling plan and some of the hazards for the site which included some dead standing Fir trees, understory saplings, blowdown and narrow corridors which increase the risk of brushing. We discussed the ERP, first aid site assessment, barriers to first aid and how an injured faller would be moved from a position in the block to a road for transport to medical aid. There were six workers on site at the time of this inspection. This is a designated high risk work site more than 20 minutes from a hospital and an ETV would be required for this number of workers. Orders for these violations were issued to the party with direct responsibility for compliance. See Regulations Referenced OHS for details.

**QUALIFIED SUPERVISION**

A faller must be effectively supervised by a qualified person at intervals to prevent the development of unsafe falling practices and be available for the faller to consult with in the event a falling difficulty is encountered during day to day operations. Falling supervisors have an obligation under OHSR 26.22.1(2) to ensure that a falling plan is in place, discussed and that the faller is qualified and equipped to manage any identified hazards.

**\*Observations:** The prime contractor has hired a sub-contract falling supervisor to manage faller supervision for this site. At the time of this inspection the falling supervisor had just completed falling assessments of the two fallers just prior to my arrival. The falling supervisor is not on-site every day but is available for the fallers to consult with as needed and conducts weekly faller assessments.

**QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE**

Fallers are required to have assistance readily available for situations of difficulty, emergency, or injury. In the context of this section, these terms have the following meanings:

*Difficulty* — A difficult situation for a faller is one where advice or assistance is needed before work can proceed but the situation is not urgent.

*Emergency* — An emergency for a faller is a situation where urgent action is required to prevent or control a hazard or otherwise allow a quick return to normal operations. There is usually less time for planning in an emergency. Examples would be if a faller has been pinned under a tree, a windstorm has caused blocked egress or a hung up tree.

*Injury* — Any incident requiring first aid service. Ideally all fallers should have level 1 first aid and always work in pairs wherever practicable. In places where fallers are more than 10 minutes response time from the nearest first aid attendant employers must ensure that adequate first aid is available to all fallers to meet this component of qualified assistance.

\* The fallers are within 10 minutes walking distance to each other and able to provide qualified assistance to each other.

**SAFE WORKING DISTANCES**

Fallers must maintain at least two-tree lengths distance from each other. Planning must take into consideration the location of all fallers in relation to each other on steep slopes and to other activities ie; road construction, yarding.

**FALLING CUTS**

Falling cuts are evaluated to ensure that they meet the BC Falling Standard. Examples of inadequate falling cuts include the following:

- Backcut below undercut
- Inadequate undercut
- Excessive undercut
- Sloping cuts
- Undercut not cleaned out
- Cut off holding wood
- No undercut in trees greater than 6" (15 cm) dbh

Other topics discussed included:

- Planning and constructing escape routes
- Minimizing unnecessary brushing
- Overhead hazards; pre-existing and created by brushing and/or limb tied trees
- Options for dealing with dangerous trees (ie: blasting, mechanical assistance)
- Safe bucking procedures including pre-bucking of blowdown to minimize chain reactions
- Roadside debris; hazard assessment and options for dealing with the hazards
- Ensuring the well-being of each faller and buckler at least every half hour and at the end of the work shift.

**DANGEROUS TREES**

Any dangerous trees (green or dead standing trees with defects) that could impact an area where workers may be exposed must be made safe for workers by either falling all dangerous trees or having them assessed by a qualified person to determine that



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they will not pose a risk to workers. Any trees assessed as 'safe' must be documented and communicated as such to any workers who may be required to work in proximity to the tree. See Regulation referenced OHSR 26.11

\* I discussed with the fallers and falling supervisor the plan to leave some of the standing dead Fir trees along the edge of some of the trails that were being felled. The plan was to fall and skid the main trails first and then falling the trees outside of the main trails to the trails for skidding. The fallers were assessing these trees to ensure that they were safe for falling and skidding around until they can be felled. The fallers must ensure this information is documented and communicated to any workers required to work in proximity to these trees.

If there are any questions regarding this inspection report, please contact:

**Dean Redknap - Occupational Safety Officer - WorkSafeBC**

E-mail: dean.redknap@worksafebc.com

Mail: 321 Battle St., Kamloops B.C. V2C 6P1

Phone: 250-314-6052 || Fax: 250-371-6031

For more information on occupational health and safety, visit: [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)

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## REFERENCES

**In addition to any orders, or other items, and the information provided in the Inspection Notes section in this Inspection Report, the officer may discuss other health and safety issues with the employer arising out of the inspection. The information below sets out the health and safety requirements discussed with the employer, and unless otherwise noted, violations of these requirements were not observed.**

Reference	Details Discussed
<p><b>OHS26.2(1)</b></p> <p>The owner of a forestry operation must ensure that all activities of the forestry operation are both planned and conducted in a manner consistent with this Regulation and with safe work practices acceptable to the Board.</p>	<p>Referenced in relation to ensuring falling activities are adequately planned and conducted.</p>
<p><b>OHS26.2(2)</b></p> <p>Every person who has knowledge and control of any particular activity in a forestry operation must ensure that the activity is both planned and conducted in a manner consistent with this Regulation and with safe work practices acceptable to the Board.</p>	<p>Referenced in relation to ensuring falling activities are adequately planned and conducted.</p>
<p><b>OHS26.2(3)</b></p> <p>The planning required under this section must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) include identification of any work activities or conditions at the workplace where there is a known or reasonably foreseeable risk to workers,</li> <li>(b) be completed before work commences on the relevant activity, and</li> <li>(c) be documented at the time of planning.</li> </ul>	<p>Referenced in relation to ensuring falling activities are adequately planned and conducted.</p>
<p><b>OHS26.2(4)</b></p> <p>If, after any planning referred to in subsection (3), there is a change in the workplace circumstances, including the work activities and the conditions of the workplace, and the change poses or creates a known or reasonably foreseeable risk to workers that was not previously identified, then</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the plan must be amended to identify and address the risk and provide for the health and safety of the workers at the workplace, and</li> <li>(b) the amendment must be documented as soon as is practicable.</li> </ul>	<p>Referenced in relation to ensuring falling activities are adequately planned and conducted.</p>
<p><b>OHS3.16(2)(d)</b></p> <p>For the purpose of complying with Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Section 3.16(1), the employer must conduct an assessment of the circumstances of the workplace, including any barriers to first aid being provided to an injured worker.</p>	<p>Referenced with regard to conducting the workplace first aid risk assessment and barriers to the provision of first aid that must be considered. Fallers are working off the road in timber through some broken ground and the employer must consider how they would move an injured faller from their location to the road for transport to medical aid.</p>

Reference	Details Discussed
<b>OHS3.16(1)(b)</b>  The employer must provide for each workplace such equipment, supplies, facilities, first aid attendants and services as are adequate and appropriate for (a) promptly rendering first aid to workers if they suffer an injury at work, and (b) transporting injured workers to medical treatment.	Referenced in relation to the employer ensuring the number of workers on-site is monitored so that at least the minimum requirements for first aid are being met.
<b>OHS26.11(1)</b>  If it is known or reasonably foreseeable that work will expose a worker to a dangerous tree, (a) the tree must be felled, or (b) a risk assessment of the tree must be undertaken by a person who has completed a training program acceptable to the Board.	Referenced in relation to assessment of standing dead Fir trees outside the main trails that are being left to be felled until after skidding of the main trails has been completed. The employer must ensure that these trees are being assessed and that any dangerous trees are managed and information communicated to other workers in the area.



**INSPECTION REPORT**  
**Worker and Employer Services Division**  
**202117752008A**

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Employer #	Mailing Address	Classification Unit #	Operating Location
11284	C/O BRUCE ANDERSON DONALD RIX BUILDING 2389 HEALTH SCIENCES MALL ROOM 336 VANCOUVER BC V6T 1Z3	765010	001

Lab Samples Taken	Direct Readings	Results Presented	Sampling Inspection(s)
N	N	N	

Workers onsite during Inspection	Notice of Project Number
6	

Inspection Report Delivered To	Employer Representative Present During Inspection	Worker Representative Present During Inspection	Labour Organization & Local
Don Skea	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	

WorkSafeBC Officer Conducting Inspection	Contact Details	
Dean Redknap	Phone: (250) 314-6052	Email: Dean.Redknap@worksafebc.com

Inspection Time*	Travel Time*
2.75 hrs	3.5 hrs

\*The time recorded above reflects the inspection time and travel time associated with this inspection report and includes time spent on pre and post-inspection activities. Additional time may be added for subsequent activity.

**Request a Review**

**Any employer, worker, owner, supplier, union, or a member of a deceased worker's family directly affected may, within 45 calendar days of the delivery date of this report, in writing, request the Review Division of WorkSafeBC to conduct a review of an order, or the non-issuance of an order, by contacting the Review Division. Employers requiring assistance may contact the Employers' Advisers Office at 1-800-925-2233.**

**To submit a request online, visit <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/review-appeal/submit-request>**

**WorkSafeBC values your feedback. To obtain that feedback, an external market research provider may be contacting you to complete a survey.**

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