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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.

Inspection Report #202418343004A		
Employer Name	Jobsite Inspected	Scope of Inspection
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	14500 Silver Valley Road Maple Ridge BC V4R 2R3	Owner / Licensee Duties

Date of Initiating Inspection	Date of This Inspection	Delivery Date of This Report	Delivery Method
Jan 16, 2024	Jan 16, 2024	Jan 19, 2024	Email

THERE ARE ZERO (0) ORDERS OR OTHER ITEMS OUTSTANDING

**ACTION MAY STILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE
PLEASE READ FULL REPORT**

INSPECTION NOTES

On January 16, 2024 I conducted an inspection of this employer's workplace as part of WorkSafeBC's ongoing commitment to engage with employers and workers to reduce risk and promote safe and healthy workplaces.

Background

The University of British Columbia (UBC / the employer) is the owner of a privately operated tree farm (Malcom Knapp Research Forest) on Silver Valley Road in Maple Ridge. Taseko Timber Ltd. was contracted by UBC to act as the prime contractor for the full phase logging activities in various areas throughout the woodlot.

I inspected the activities underway in block F041-1. This was a mixed species second growth block primarily made up of cedar, fir, and hemlock. I also inspected the hand falling and road building activities underway on the A041 road extension.

WorkSafeBC's 2024 Forestry High Risk Strategy is aimed at reducing injury rates in the forest industry and is comprised of focused and impactful inspections in the following 5 areas of the industry:

Manual tree falling; Log hauling; Cable yarding; Mechanized harvesting (primary focus will be on steep slope and tethered/winch-assist operations); Silviculture (seasonal focus)

As part of the strategy, WorkSafeBC aims to promote best practices and compliance with regulatory requirements. Officers will review the roles and activities of all worksite parties, including engaging licensees and owners in promoting sustained compliance to reduce injury rates in the forest industry.

The following information is provided for the Owner's information and reference with respect to their duties and responsibilities in this forestry operation.

Owners/licensees are accountable to manage their risk and their obligation under the Act to ensure the health and safety of workers. Managing risk in a sustained approach will help to reduce injuries and ensure that all workers are protected from preventable workplace hazards and risks.

Planning and Conducting a Forestry Operation (See 'References' section for OHS 26.2)

All parties have responsibilities

All forestry workplace parties including owner/licensees, prime contractors, supervisors and workers are responsible and accountable for safety if they have knowledge and control of the activity they are engaged in. This includes ensuring the activities are planned and conducted in compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (the Regulation) (OHS) and with safe work practices acceptable to the Board. (OHS 26.2(1) and (2))

General duties of owners under the Workers Compensation Act (WCA) include notifying the employer or prime contractor and providing any information necessary to identify and eliminate or control health and safety hazards, and ensure compliance with occupational health and safety provisions, the Regulation, and any orders. (See 'References' section WCA 25)

Planning includes identifying actual or potential risks (OHS 26.2(3))

Planning for forestry operations must identify any work activities or conditions that have a known or reasonably foreseeable risk to workers.

Planning must be done before work starts and the plan must be documented (OHS 26.2(3))

Planning for forestry operations must be done and documented before work starts on that particular activity. Documenting planning after the fact is not compliant unless it is a change to an existing plan (see below).

Changes to the plan (OHS 26.2(4))

If there is a change to the plan due to the workplace circumstances (examples: discovered steep/rocky/wet areas, recent timber blowdown, changing weather or equipment), the risks posed by these conditions or recent observations along with control

measures must be documented in an amended plan as soon as practicable.

Hiring a Prime Contractor-Owner/Licensee responsibilities (See 'References' sections OHS 26.1.1 and OHS 26.1.2)

Even though a prime contractor may be assigned and have responsibilities, the owner/licensee is still accountable to ensure prime contractor compliance with the Regulation and OHS Provisions.

- The prime contractor agreement must be in writing and must clearly identify the prime contractor responsibilities. Prime contractors must be given the authority to carry out their responsibilities without limitation when carrying out activities on behalf of the owner/licensee.
- It is the owner/licensee responsibility to make sure all the companies on the worksite understand who the prime contractor is and their authority over that worksite.
- There cannot be more than one prime contractor designated to the worksite; the prime contractor's authority must include exclusivity of control over that worksite.
- Multiple-employer forestry workplaces will involve a complex mix of work activities and hazards. Owners are therefore expected to ensure that prime contractors they designate have a significant level of knowledge, experience and training specific to the types of operations that they will be coordinating. Being "qualified" also involves possessing knowledge of how to control hazards; a qualified prime contractor must not only have knowledge of work processes, but knowledge of hazard recognition and managing health and safety risks.
- Prime contractors must also have a system or process that ensures compliance with the OHS provisions and the Regulation at the workplace and the owner/licensee must confirm this is in place before work starts.

Ensuring compliance of prime contractors and employers working on licensee/owner lands

Licensees/owners are responsible to ensure the prime contractor is qualified and doing their work in compliance with the OHSR and safe work practices acceptable to WorkSafeBC.

This includes monitoring the operations of prime contractors to ensure they are meeting their health and safety obligations and are monitoring the health and safety performance of their subcontractors

Documented site contract inspections by the licensee/owner on a regular basis according to the risk will help the owner/licensee to demonstrate compliance with their responsibilities and to ensure employers working on licensee/owner lands are in compliance with the Regulation and OHS provisions.

The owner/licensee must ensure that the persons undertaking the site contract inspections are qualified. This means those persons are knowledgeable of the work, the hazards involved and how to control those hazards from their education, training, experience or a combination of these things.

Other key elements of the 2024 Forestry High Risk Strategy for the employer's consideration include:

Phase Congestion - Hazard Area of Logging Equipment

When there are multiple phases of logging equipment working, they can become bunched up or congested where it puts workers at risk. A worksite can become congested due to weather events, delays in phase completion, or other unforeseen circumstances. The prime contractor must have a plan to address these challenges in a timely manner so that worker safety isn't compromised.

Licensees/owners must also prevent phase congestion as part of their planning and conducting responsibilities. Some examples of this include:

- Planning the layout, timing and sequence of operations to ensure there is adequate distance between phases and workers.
- Considering the work activities or conditions at the workplace during the planning phase to prevent phase congestion, which can

be considered a known or foreseeable risk to workers.

- Providing the prime contractor with the information necessary to identify, eliminate, or control hazards.
- Ensure the prime contractor has an adequate system or process to prevent phase congestion from occurring.
- Amending plans when there is a change in the workplace that could create a known or foreseeable risk to workers and documenting the amendment as soon as possible.
- Ensuring that the prime contractor is qualified to manage the worksite effectively.
- Evaluating whether the risks of operations of workers at one site within the license area will impose risk to workers at another site. (Where necessary, coordinate those activities in order to ensure that workers' health and safety is not put at risk.)

Emergency Response Plans (ERP) (See 'References' section OHS 4.14)

Owners/licensees must ensure that employers and prime contractors have effective ERP's for the worksites they are on, and that the ERP is communicated to all workers to ensure worker safety in the event of an emergency.

While an ERP and first aid are connected, it is important to note that they are separate processes and need to be planned for separately. An ERP considers what you need to do after an injury, beyond treatment, such as getting the person evacuated and to appropriate care. (e.g. – A feller-buncher over-turning a distance from a road which may become a rescue operation)
A simple injury can potentially become catastrophic if the worker experiences onset shock or hypothermia, both very real risks with delayed response.

The owner is reminded of the importance of ensuring that their prime contractor is conducting annual emergency drills to assess the effectiveness of their emergency response procedures. (OHS

Hand Falling (Manual Falling)

Owners/licensees have responsibilities to ensure hand falling can be carried out in a safe manner and some of those responsibilities include:

- Layout of the block areas to ensure safe falling is feasible. This includes layout that prevents placing fallers at serious risk. Examples of this would include: not having blocks with small openings or 'fingers' that can result in unnecessary brushing, preventing blocks from having narrow isolated areas that prevent timely qualified assistance, or layout that requires falling just above rock bluffs where a risk of fall from elevation is present.
- Ensuring there is a qualified falling supervisor for the operations and that adequate supervision is occurring including ensuring the supervisor's process includes inspections of falling activities on a regular basis to identify and prevent unsafe work practices from continuing.
- During contract inspections, the licensee/owner should look at the following as part of their inspections to ensure compliance with the OHS Regulation and OHS provisions to ensure manual falling is occurring in a compliant manner:
- Ensuring hazard assessments of falling areas are done before falling starts – This includes ensuring the falling supervisor walked the falling areas prior to placing fallers, and walking the fallers into their work areas when they start.
- Ensuring there are documented falling plans in place. – Falling plans are an important part of planning falling activities. There must be adequate falling plans in place before work starts.
- Ensuring Access/Egress to falling areas is in place – This must be in the falling plan.
- Certified and qualified fallers- Ensure there is a process in place to ensure that fallers are certified, and qualified for the timber type and terrain they are falling in.

- Safe work procedures for hand falling – Ensure the employer has provided and reviewed safe work procedures for manual tree falling with the fallers. Safe work procedures for manual falling include the BC Faller Training Standard.

- Qualified assistance – Qualified assistance must be available to each manual faller in the event of falling difficulty, injury or emergency.

Roadside Debris Endangering Workers (See 'References' section OHS 26.80)

Hazardous roadside debris has been identified as a serious threat to worker safety. Material such as shot rock, loose boulders, root wads, decked logs, pushed over trees, danger trees, road spoil or processor debris pose a risk to workers who must work below or travel through these areas. Safe access and egress for blocks is also an issue from these things.

The licensee/owner must have a system or process in place to ensure roadside debris is controlled prior to workers accessing the area.

Mechanized harvesting on steep slopes

Employers have a regulatory obligation to create a formal risk assessment prior to beginning work on a steep slope block.

Key components:

- Identify mechanized machinery to be used
- Identify who completed the risk assessment and were they qualified to complete it?
- Create a detailed map.
- Is there sufficient detail to accurately reflect the ground conditions and the operation on the slopes?

Owners/licensees must ensure that the steep slope risk assessment and safe work procedures are in place and compliant when steep slope harvesting is occurring on their lands.

Tethered Equipment and Cable Assist Regulatory framework

The inspection process of cable assist equipment is based on the manufacturer's instructions. The training component of this system is critical. There must be knowledgeable trained persons conducting effective risk assessments before work starts. Operators must be knowledgeable, trained, and competent to safely operate equipment and conduct inspections and maintenance of the critical components of the equipment.

- The planning by the owner/licensee must be done for tethered/cable assist to be done safely.

Owners/licensees must consider the following when hiring contractors using tethered /cable assist system:

- Operators must be trained in and are competent in the operation of the machinery in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.

- The machinery is being operated to manufacturer's specifications.

Log Transporter Safety

Licensees/Owners are required to ensure log transport is conducted in accordance with the OHSR and OHS provisions.

Cable Yarding

Licensees/Owners are required to ensure that cable yarding is planned and conducted in accordance with the OHSR and OHS Provisions.

When planning cable yarding blocks, the licensee/owner must consider the following when doing their onsite contract supervision inspections.

- Appropriate equipment and site selection, phase integration, proper deflection, adequate tree landing area location and size, appropriate backspar trees, terrain features, slope, tree lean, forwarding.
- Manufacturer's decal is present on the machine and has all required information.

- Safe Worker locations /hazards-Workers not located in bight, are clear of moving logs or block debris.
- Workers and equipment are clear of rolling or sliding timber downhill.
- Removal of rigging hazards -tree and sapling removal is done when required.

Equipment Guarding

Licensees/Owners are required to ensure that prime contractors have a system or process in place to ensure that equipment is properly guarded for forestry operations.

De-energization and Lockout

Licensees/Owners must ensure that the prime contractor has compliant de-energization and lockout procedures in place at the worksite and that workers have been trained in the procedures.

Note: Newer equipment often comes with lockable Energy Isolating devices (night switch). If the equipment does not have lockout points, the worker can detach the battery cables from the battery. This is to prevent someone else from starting the equipment while it is being worked on.

Resources

- WorkSafeBC app "OHSRegulation" available, free of charge, automatically updated for current Workers Compensation Act, (WCA), Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulation, policies, guidelines, standards, and other relevant legislation regulating health and safety at work.
- Additional information related to health and safety at the workplace is available at the WorkSafeBC website www.worksafebc.com.
- The WorkSafeBC prevention information line - direct 604-276-3100 or toll free 1-888-621-7233 - is also available to answer questions about workplace health and safety, employers and workers responsibilities, and reporting a workplace accident or incident.

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For information on workplace health and safety, call toll-free within BC 1-888-621-SAFE (7233), visit the WorkSafeBC web site www.worksafebc.com, or download the mobile APP.

If any person at this workplace has questions or requires further information regarding this inspection report, please contact:

Ray Goulding
Occupational Safety Officer, Prevention Field Services
P | 604.232.1956 F | 604.232.5950 | Call Centre 1.888.621.7233
E | ray.goulding@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
WCA25 Every owner of a workplace must: (a) provide and maintain the owner's land and premises that are being used as a workplace in a manner that ensures the health and safety of persons at or near the workplace, (b) give to the employer or prime contractor at the workplace the information known to the owner that is necessary to identify and eliminate or control hazards to the health or safety of persons at the workplace, and (c) comply with the OHS provisions, the regulations and any applicable orders.	Provided for the employer's and workers' reference to the applicable section of the Workers Compensation Act or OHS Regulation related to our discussion(s).
OHS4.14(3) At least once each year emergency drills must be held to ensure awareness and effectiveness of emergency exit routes and procedures, and a record of the drills must be kept.	Provided for the employer's and workers' reference to the applicable section of the Workers Compensation Act or OHS Regulation related to our discussion(s).
OHS26.1.1(a) If the owner of a forestry operation enters into an agreement referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of "prime contractor" in section 13 of the Act designating a person to be the prime contractor for a workplace, the owner must ensure that (a) the person designated (i) is qualified to be the prime contractor in respect of that workplace, and (ii) has the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of prime contractor under the Act, including, without limitation, authority over any employer, worker or other person who may be carrying out the work of the owner at the workplace.	Provided for the employer's and workers' reference to the applicable section of the Workers Compensation Act or OHS Regulation related to our discussion(s).
OHS26.2(1) 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.	Provided for the employer's and workers' reference to the applicable section of the Workers Compensation Act or OHS Regulation related to our discussion(s).

Reference	Details Discussed
OHS26.1.2(2) Before starting any activity that is likely to create a hazard for an independent operator or a worker of another employer, the person intending to carry out the activity must notify the prime contractor.	Provided for the employer's and workers' reference to the applicable section of the Workers Compensation Act or OHS Regulation related to our discussion(s).
OHS26.80 Road or skid trail construction, including any blasting activity, must be carried out in a manner that prevents hangups, hanging broken tops or limbs, leaners, sidebind of pushed trees, or similar hazards which could endanger fallers or other workers.	Provided for the employer's and workers' reference to the applicable section of the Workers Compensation Act or OHS Regulation related to our discussion(s).

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	009

Lab Samples Taken	Direct Readings	Results Presented	Sampling Inspection(s)	Workers onsite during Inspection	Notice of Project Number
N	N	N		6	

Inspection Report Delivered To	Employer Representative Present During Inspection	Worker Representative Present During Inspection	Labour Organization & Local
Sean Pledger	Sean Pledger	Not Available	

WorkSafeBC Officer Conducting Inspection	Contact Details	
Ray Goulding	Phone: (604) 232-1956	Email: Ray.Goulding@worksafebc.com

Inspection Time*	Travel Time*
0 hrs	0 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.

WorkSafeBC's online services provide employers with tools to view information and to complete a variety of transactions with us in an easy, fast, and secure way. Through an online services account, you can view and download your inspection reports and compliance agreements, submit Employer Incident Investigation Reports, view your Health & Safety Planning Tool Kit, and more. Visit [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com) to log in or create an account.

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