BC Forest Safety Council

New Zealand Presentation
November 26, 2013
The Need for Change

Financial Post Article – December 10, 2005

Rising death toll sparks

B.C. ‘fatality summit’
Where We Were

Financial Post Article – December 10, 2005

NO ROOM FOR ERROR IN UNFORGIVING FOREST

WORKER OUTPUT FINALLY TAKES OFF

PRODUCTIVITY RISE FASTEST IN ALMOST FOUR YEARS

By Jacqueline Trophy

NTP v. RIM

What does NTP’s Don Stout really want?

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West Coast’s dirty secret

ROUSIER

TERENCE CORSO

November 26, 2013
WSBC Accepted Harvesting Fatality Claims

Year of injury same, and prior, to year accepted. Does not include industrial diseases
Fatality Rate *

2012 harvest volume based on 72,250,000 m³
*Fatality Rate per 10 million m³ wood harvested
HISTORICAL INJURY RATE
FORESTRY

Forestry Injury Rate 1992-2011

- Injury Rate (Time-loss days per 100 person-years)
- 1992: 14.1
- 1993: 13.9
- 1994: 12.9
- 1995: 12.0
- 1996: 10.9
- 1997: 11.2
- 1998: 9.2
- 1999: 8.8
- 2000: 8.4
- 2001: 7.3
- 2002: 6.7
- 2003: 6.4
- 2004: 6.3
- 2005: 6.6
- 2006: 6.1
- 2007: 6.2
- 2008: 5.6
- 2009: 4.2
- 2010: 4.8
- 2011: 5.0

NOTES:
* Forestry includes Bulkwood, Forest, Log Hauling, Log Towing and Forest Management Services.
* 2012 Injury Rate is not available as of March 2013 because 2012 Pension Years are not available until July 2013.
Vancouver Sun Article – April 25, 2011

THE VANCOUVER SUN

Death rate drops as B.C. loggers embrace safe practices on the job

Horrendous number of fatalities in 2005 prompted a public outcry for industry-wide changes

BY GORDON HAMILTON, VANCOUVER SUN April 25, 2011

When Otto Schultz, coastal woodlands vice president for International Forest Products, boarded a float plane last week for a trip from Nanaimo to Vancouver, he was the only passenger wearing a flotation device.

The life vest attracted attention among the passengers, and the pilot told him to take it off.

"I had two choices to make: Either I was wrong, or I was not flying in that plane," Schultz said in a later interview.

He wore the vest, waiting until the pilot was aboard and had his back turned before putting it on.

A decade ago, Schultz would not have worn that vest. Now, it is a building company rule. If you want to work at Interfor, you follow the safety rules.

Wearing life jackets in float planes is one small indicator that safety practices are becoming the new standard in the B.C. forest industry, regularly going beyond federal and provincial regulations.

The focus on safety has paid off, cutting down the number of deaths and accidents on B.C. forests. In 2010, six workers died in B.C.’s forests for the second consecutive year. It’s still nothing to be proud of, but compared to 41 deaths in 2005, and an average of 22 in the two years before that, it’s a clear indicator of a change for the better in the way people work in the woods.

"We had to do better; we had to find ways to ensure that the people working for us, our staff and our contractors, were coming home at night having worked safely during the day," Schultz said.

That’s when the company began delving into the culture of risk-taking that permeates logging. From there, programs on making accidents presentable were developed.

Schultz believes initiatives launched by most forest companies, not just Interfor, have led to a fundamental transformation in logger culture. He should know. A lifelong logger, he was a part of that culture.

"It was a culture of risk-taking. I can’t explain it any other way," Interfor’s safety consultant said that it was the older, seasoned workers or those with less than two years experience who were getting killed. The lack of experience is easy to understand.

But why were older workers who knew better, taking risks?

"I think it’s because if you do one thing too many times, you become complacent," he said. "I was brought into the industry when it was a culture of risk-taking. You are born into it. It’s acceptable. You learn to measure risk but you take more risk than you should."

Schultz, who lives in the rural community of Black Creek, B.C., stands by the data.

When a United Steelworkers union, which took over the old PA in 2004, the union had successfully lobbied for the well-received Workers’ Compensation and the Criminal Code under which negligence could be held criminal.

Mr. Schmitz’s, one of the few companies to be demonstrating a strong safety culture, said the workers have launched a private prosecution in B.C. against a newcomer who had a worker death.

"Quite frankly, the change from PA to Steelworkers was a key point where a fresh perspective came in, there was a new look and people going, ‘How can we be?’"

Former union officers also became vocal about the number of times they were being killed.

"All of a sudden, it wasn’t acceptable to have more for people to get killed. It became headlines," said Run Corbel, health and safety coordinator for the Steelworkers. He said stories, like the Vancouver Sun, have had a strong impact.

"That started to change people’s perspective towards being a logger. It’s not just a price of doing business anymore and kill workers."

Instead of harming companies they could be held liable for the deaths and injuries. It developed certification programs for workers. The Forest Safety Council introduced programs to certify companies based on safety and incident audits. A forest safety consultant was appointed. Concerns improved.

"I am sure (Orca) said, ‘I don’t want to get called to one of those things.’ "

The Vancouver Sun has been helping the forest industry embrace a new culture of safety.