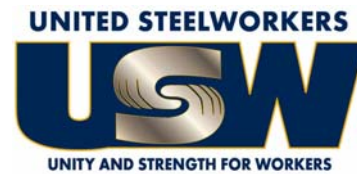




SafeTalk



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GOLD RIVER IS IN SHOCK AFTER LIFELONG RESIDENT FRANK SINCLAIR IS KILLED IN A FALLING ACCIDENT



On February 12th a tragic falling accident took the life of local 1-85 member Frank Sinclair. Frank, 50 years old, was a lifelong resident of Gold River BC, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Frank leaves behind his wife of 30 years, two children and five grandchildren.

The tragic death of local 1-85 member Frank Sinclair has touched not only his friends and family, but the entire community.

At approximately 10:30 am on February 12th, Frank was working as a faller for Western Forest Products Gold River Forest Operations. He died from injuries sustained from being struck by a portion of a falling snag. Frank was falling right-of-way timber with a partner; they had been working for approximately two hours that morning.

Dave Lewis, executive director of the B.C. Truck Loggers Association and the former mayor of Gold River, said he knew Sinclair well.

Lewis fished with Sinclair and knew his family and him well. "One thing you could always count on from Frank: He would always have a smile on his face and fish in the boat."

Lewis said a logging death in a town like Gold River hits people hard. "It's a chilling, chilling atmosphere when that call comes in," Lewis said. "The company shuts down operations immediately; all the radios go silent. People don't know what's happened, they don't know who it is. All the fallers are sequestered. There's this ripple of fear that goes throughout the community because no one knows who it was. They have to do their investigation and notification. There's a lot of worry and pain."

Local 1-363 President Rick Wangler who worked and played hockey with Frank added "he was a first-rate, highly-experienced logger and a very likeable and personable guy".

A memorial for Frank can be found at <http://www.crittercove.com/>

Coming Events

February 28 Family Violence Workshop, Terrace BC

May 11-15 National HS&E Conference, Toronto Ontario



Sub-local Chair and OH&S Co-Chair Ken Merlo has known the Sinclair family for 38 years.

Ken is part of the investigation team along with local 1-85 health and safety director Glen Cheetham, district health, safety and environment coordinator Ron Corbeil and representatives from Western Forest Products.

Ken remembers Frank to be a hard working man who would give the shirt off his back to anyone who needed it. "Frank got his work ethic from his dad, Bunty Sinclair who also worked at Gold River. Bunty was a good logger and could do every job in the bush", said Merlo.

Ken added, "Frank always had a smile on his face and was liked by everyone, he will be sorely missed, he was a good man".

Our sincere condolences go out to Frank's family, friends, co-workers and the community of Gold River.

Review of The Operation of Mines Regulation in Manitoba

A review of the Operation of Mines Regulation will soon be underway in order to update the remaining piece of workplace safety and health legislation. This regulation is unique to the standard workplace safety and health regulation as it applies specifically to the mining sector and activities involved in underground mining, pits and quarries, peat moss operations, metallurgical plants and surface diamond drills. The review and consultation process will follow a similar pattern as that conducted for the workplace safety and health regulation, with involvement from The Standing Committee for Review of the Operation of Mines Regulation (established by the Minister's Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health) and mining industry stakeholders.

HAZARD ALERT

A worker was attempting to straighten a skewed 9-foot log in the in feed unscrambler by hand when the log suddenly straightened. The worker's hand was caught between the handrail and the log seriously injuring him.

A certified hand faller sustained serious injuries when the worker was struck on the back of the head by a limb.

A worker was seriously injured when he was using a "zip-cut" type metal cutting wheel on a small hand held grinder with the guard removed. The wheel shattered causing serious injuries.

A cedar windfall that was being bucked by a certified manual tree faller pivoted, pinning the faller up against a rock bluff fatally injuring him.

The sorter operator received serious injury when the worker reached in to adjust a skewed board. The machine was not locked out.

The driver of a loaded logging truck was fatally injured when his truck collided with an empty logging truck. The driver of the empty truck lost control when he hit his brakes and slid into the path of the loaded logging truck. This accident occurred on a public highway.

A worker was injured when he was operating the J-Bar Unscramble when the worker reached across the moving ending rolls to grab a board with a jagged end. The worker's hand was caught on the end of the board and was pushed up against an even ending side fence where the worker got caught in the in-running nip-point of the side fence belt conveyor and safeguarding.

A young worker was seriously injured when he was performing work activity in the area underneath a lumber stacker when the worker's hand was caught in the in-running nip point of a transfer chain and sprocket that were not de-energized.

First C-45 Conviction

A Quebec employer pled guilty to criminal charges in a workplace death. The conviction is the first since the 'corporate killing' law came into effect in 2004. Occupational health and safety has become a bigger concern for employers with the first criminal conviction of a corporation under the amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada brought in by Bill C-45 in March 2004.

The amendments, known as the corporate killing law, stipulate organizations must take all reasonable steps to prevent bodily harm to persons, including workers, contractors and the general public. Also, in addition to being charged with contravention of health and safety regulations, a corporation, its supervisors or other representatives can now be charged with criminal negligence by government enforcers at the scene of a workplace accident.

In October 2005, a worker for Transpavé Inc., a manufacturer of concrete blocks in Saint-Eustache, Que., was crushed to death by a machine that stacks the blocks. The machine had a curtain guard which should have cut power to the machine when the worker approached it, but investigators determined this safety system was disabled at the time and had been for nearly two years. It was also discovered the employee had not been told of the danger and management was aware of the situation but did nothing about it.

Transpavé was charged with criminal negligence causing death and pled guilty on Dec. 7, 2007. The hearing took place on Feb. 26th with the judge expected to render his decision March 17.

Local 1-363 Members Save Man's Life

On February 4th a middle-aged man suffered a heart attack while playing hockey at the Strathcona Gardens in Campbell River BC. The staff, members of local 1-363, immediately set into action with a first aid plan. According to Local 1-363 president, Rick Wangler two other hockey players started CPR while the workers got the defibrillator into action.

"The application of the defibrillator and the ongoing CPR started the man's breathing again and he was shortly thereafter taken to hospital where a few days later he received multiple bypass surgery and it is our understanding he will recover fully," he said. Wangler added, "The whole operation took approximately 15 minutes and we were told that if everyone had not done what they did, when they did, the man would not have survived.

I would like to congratulate the Steelworker members in Campbell River for the fantastic job they did when they saved a man's life", Wangler said. "I would be remiss if I did not mention the hockey players that started CPR right away", he added.



Local 1-363 President, Rick Wangler thanks members for their response