



SafeTalk



Local 1-85 Donates to Food Bank



Glen Cheetham, front left, Financial Secretary and Dave Steinhauer, front right, Local President along with the Local 1-85 Executive Board present the local Salvation Army food bank with a cheque for \$15,000

Port Alberni BC has been extremely hard hit with the downturn in the forest industry and the local food bank was in dire need of donations. With the help of the United Steelworkers Humanity Fund USW local 1-85 was able to help out the food bank with a \$15,000 donation just prior to Christmas.

The Humanity Fund, which is funded by a contribution of one cent per hour from employers on behalf of our members works to ensure people that are suffering because of inequalities and injustices in Canada and abroad will get the help they need.

The Humanity Fund also plays an important part in the Unions efforts to engage in partnerships and alliances with workers around the world.

The Humanity Fund currently supports 22 projects in 9 countries; and supports 47 food banks in communities where United Steelworker members live and work across Canada.

Coroners Death Review Panel Recommendations

On July 29 and July 30, 2009, a Death Review Panel was convened in Nanaimo to examine the circumstances surrounding the deaths of three tree fallers who died in coastal logging operations in the early part of 2008.

Fifteen panel members were appointed under Section 49 of the *Coroners Act*. The panel represented a wide cross-section of backgrounds within the forestry sector, including the industry, 2 United Steelworker representatives, government, regulatory establishment and forest safety advocacy. Working fallers and falling contractors.

The recommendations have now finally been made public.

The purpose of a death review panel is to review the facts and circumstances of deaths in order to provide advice to the Chief Coroner with respect to matters that may impact public health and safety and the prevention of deaths.

Coming Events

- Feb. 11,12 SFL Equity Conference, Saskatoon Sask.*
- Feb. 12 Safe Work Investigation Training, Winnipeg Man.*
- Feb. 14 Safe Work Committee Basics, Winnipeg Man.*
- Feb. 16,17 BC Fed Federal H&S Training, Burnaby BC*
- Feb. 22 to April 30 AWHC "That's Danger" play Alberta*
- March 8,9 CCOHS Workplace Change Conference, Gatineau Que.*
- March 22,23 SFL Shiftwork Conference, Regina Sask.*

Recommendations:

The *Coroners Act* directs that following each review by a death review panel, any findings and recommendations made by the panel respecting the prevention of similar deaths must be reported to the Chief Coroner.

1. To the BC Forest Safety Council (the Council)
That the Council develop an endorsement system for planners, fallers and supervisors, linking individual skill, experience and knowledge levels to the diverse work conditions and levels of risk which may be encountered by tree fallers across the province.
2. To the BC Forest Safety Council
That the Council develop a Hazard Matrix for use in harvest layout and planning.
3. To the BC Forest Safety Council
That the Council consider leading a study into falling supervisor workload management issues.
4. To the BC Forest Safety Council
That the Council consider developing a Faller Safety Performance Tracking System tied to the certification process.
5. To the BC Forest Safety Council
That the Council consider integrating into the SAFE Companies audit process a comprehensive section on fallers achieving compliance with the BC Faller Training Standard.
6. To WorkSafeBC
The Panel acknowledged that WorkSafeBC is currently reviewing strategies to reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities to fallers through initiatives such as the Faller Compliance Strategy Audit and Quality Control Process. The Panel recommends that WorkSafeBC continue with the processes which will lead to the implementation of these strategies.
7. To WorkSafeBC
That WorkSafeBC examine strategies for expanding the distribution of falling safety promotional media including safety posters and alerts.
8. To WorkSafeBC
That WorkSafeBC consider increased promotion of tree falling safety through social marketing strategies such as distribution of video materials and commercials.

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HAZARD ALERT

Injury Type : Shoulder injuries

Core Activity : Manual falling and bucking

A faller was falling a 36-inch-diameter red cedar tree. He intended to fall the cedar so that it knocked down a 40-foot-tall limbless hemlock snag (dangerous tree) about 4 feet behind it. When the cedar tree fell, the top of the snag broke off and catapulted back towards the faller.

Injury Type: Fractured vertebrae, possible internal injuries

Core Activity: Manual falling for heli-logging operation

As a faller was moving away, a maple tree broke off the stump and slid downhill. The top of the maple (4-5 inches in diameter) swung and fell from about 40 feet, striking the worker's back and knocking him to the ground.

Injury Type : Bruising

Core Activity : Logging road maintenance

A grader was grading down a 13 percent forestry haul road. The operator stopped to make way for an oncoming car. As he tried to back up the grader, its engine stalled. The grader lost braking and steering capacity, travelled a short distance down the road, then went over the outer bank and rolled about 100 feet down a 75 percent slope.

Injury Type : Concussion

Core Activity : Manual tree falling

A faller was trying to fall a live cedar tree and an alder snag limb tied into the cedar. Falling cuts were put into both trees. As the cedar began to fall, pulling the alder along with it, the alder hung up in an adjacent live fir tree. This caused the alder's stem to break and fall back onto the faller.

Injury Type : Acid burns

Core Activity : Pipefitting

A worker was breaking open a pipe flange to prepare a vessel for maintenance. Residual pressurized sulphuric acid in the line sprayed the worker. The injury was exacerbated by the difficulty of egress from the area.

Injury Type: Fatal

Core Activity: Metal recycling

Two workers were using oxyacetylene cutting equipment to dismantle an old bulldozer at a scrap metal yard. One worker was working beneath the winch, at the back end of the bulldozer. The winch dislodged from the machine frame and fell onto the worker,

Injury Type : Lacerations to hand and arm

Core Activity : Tire change and installation

A worker was inflating a tire (16-inch diameter), newly mounted on an old rim (16.5-inch diameter), when the tire exploded. The force of the explosion launched the tire/rim assembly off the tire-changing machine and into the air. The worker was struck by the tire/rim and was transported to hospital by ambulance. A second worker then tried to mount another tire on the same rim. This tire exploded as well, but the worker was not injured.

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9. To the BC Forest Safety Council and to WorkSafeBC

That the Council and WorkSafeBC work towards development and adoption of alternatives to traditional methods for controlling falling hazards, by promoting research and pilot projects in this area.

10. To WorkSafeBC and to the BC Forest Safety Council

That WorkSafeBC and the BC Forest Safety Council undertake a cost benefit study to assess the efficacy of alternate methods of conducting tree falling operations in high hazard areas.

11. To WorkSafeBC and to the BC Forest Safety Council

That WorkSafeBC and the Council promote research into human factors and decision making involved in falling accidents.

12. To the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC

That the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC develop an Industry Recommended Practice (IRP) for all aspects of tree falling, incorporating some of the progressive concepts and strategies already in existence in the industry.

13. To the BC Forest Safety Council and to WorkSafeBC

That the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC continue with, and expedite, the development of a falling supervisor competency matrix and occupational training curriculum (DACUM).

14. To the Ministry of Forests and Range and to the Association of BC Forest Professionals

That the Ministry of Forests and Range, along with the Association of BC Forest Professionals, work towards creating a requirement that safety planning be incorporated into operational harvest planning.

15. To Explosives Regulatory Division, Natural Resources Canada

That Natural Resources Canada consider creating an exemption which would enable the use of Type 6 magazines to store small quantities of explosives in remote and hard to access locations, where such explosives would be used to enhance forest worker safety by eliminating hazards in manual tree falling operations.

Full report go to: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/>

Court Decision Could Impact Contracting Out

A recent court decision finding a franchisor responsible for the safety of its franchisee's employees under occupational health and safety legislation has significant implications for franchisors and organizations which contract out work. This case involved a gasoline service station franchise, Petro-Canada.

In a September, 2009 decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, *Petro-Canada v. British Columbia (Workers' Compensation Board)*, a robbery occurred at a gasoline service-station. A Prevention Officer from the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) subsequently inspected the premises and found no action had been taken to improve the layout and design of the sales register counter to prevent future violent incidents (and also noted that better lay-outs and design were used by newer Petro-Canada stations).

The Prevention Officer found, among other things, that Petro-Canada had contravened the *Workers' Compensation Act* which requires every employer to ensure the health and safety of "any other workers present at a workplace at which the employer's work is being carried out" [s. 115(1)(a)(ii)].

Full Decision go to:

www.courts.gov.bc.ca/jdb-txt/CA/09/03/2009BCCA0396.htm