



Jury Makes Recommendations in Loggers Death

On August 17, 2007 Francis Tucker was killed when the skidder he was operating rolled more than 300 metres before coming to rest at the bottom of the hill near Merritt BC.

On March 22, 2010 a coroners jury started to hear testimony regarding this tragic event. On March 25th they made 14 recommendations to help prevent a recurrence of this type of incident happening again.

JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

To BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Forests and Range

1. We recommend that BC Timber Sales develop a training program for its field officers in order to enable the officers, who monitor logging operations under a Timber Sale licence, to recognize conditions and safety hazards associated with operation of mobile equipment on steep slopes and develop a protocol for reporting such safety issues to WorkSafeBC.

2. We recommend that BC Timber Sales require, in the terms of reference or instructions to consultants who develop harvest plans, that steep slope hazards and the safety of workers be considered in the planning and development of cutblocks, to ensure that there is a clear understanding that safety has priority over economic and environmental considerations.

3. We recommend that BC Timber Sales make a Harvest Safety Plan a requirement of the Timber Sale bid process.

4. We recommend that BC Timber Sales consider moving the Safety

Section of BCTS check-box forms to the beginning of the forms.

To BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Forest and Range and WorkSafeBC

5. We recommend that BC Timber Sales (BCTS) and WorkSafeBC enter into an Agreement, acceptable to both organizations, setting out a process through which BCTS staff could notify WorkSafeBC that a Timber Sale licence has been awarded, to ensure WorkSafeBC is aware of harvesting operations under a Timber Sale licence

To WorkSafeBC

6. We recommend that WorkSafe BC take steps to ensure that the online Notice of Project form utility allow for a copy to a third party and print process.

7. We recommend that WorkSafe BC commission a study to review the efficacy of the use of operator restraint devices, such as three-point and five-point harnesses, air bags and other protective devices designed to lessen the chance of injury and increase the survivability of the operators of logging equipment, and include in the study the feasibility of built-in inclinometer gage with audible and visual alerts.

To BC Forest Safety Council

8. We recommend that BC Forest Safety Council continue to work towards and expedite the development and adoption of an Industry Recommended Practice

(IRP) for steep slope logging applications.

9. We recommend that the Industry Recommended Practice (IRP) for steep slope logging applications, takes into consideration hazardous buffer zones, detailed safety mapping and flagging of hazardous areas.

10. We recommend that BCFCSC issue a safety alert to remind operators of the risk of storing unsecured items within the cab of their mobile equipment.

11. We recommend that SAFE Companies be required, in their audit process, to provide copies of their Notices of Project submitted to WorkSafeBC in the preceding 12 months.

12. We recommend that the current mandatory training course for SAFE Company certification include steep slope hazards training, including training in the use of an inclinometer.

13. We recommend that BC Forest Safety Council consider instituting a standardized logging machinery training program and develop a certification process

To BC Forest Safety Council and Association of BC Forest Professionals

14. We recommend that the Council work with Association of BC Forest Professionals towards developing a standard for hazard mapping in steep slope logging operations, with the end objective of arriving at a product that is easily read by forest workers and supervisors.

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