



BC Faller Certification Program

BC Faller Training Standard

The BC Faller Training Standard was developed and implemented in 2003 to ensure all fallers in BC, regardless of where they work, receive the same high-quality training and supervision in order to be evaluated to the same requirements. The mandate of the program is to ensure that anyone working as a faller has the knowledge, skills, abilities, work practices and attitude necessary to work safely and productively. BC is the first province to require fallers to be fully certified to work in the sector.

Mandatory Certification

As of July 31, 2006, certification was a requirement to work as a faller in BC as set by WorkSafeBC regulations. Licencees and employers are responsible for ensuring fallers are certified and their certificates are current.

BC has 3,618 certified fallers, including 3,197 who were grandfathered in an evaluation process for experienced fallers that ended in July 2006.

New Faller Training

In the fall of 2006, the Council introduced a comprehensive training program for new fallers. The program consists of five days of class work, followed by 25 days of one-on-one training and up to 180 days of closely supervised training with an employer. Trainees who successfully complete the class work and work experience program take a written exam followed by a field evaluation to become a certified faller.

Based on the BC Faller Training Standard, the new faller training program reinforces three key aspects of a professional tree faller:

- Recognizing hazards and completing a risk assessment of each situation before making any cuts;
- Continuously improving workmanship; and
- Seeking qualified assistance when a faller is unsure of his or her abilities or requires help

The New Faller Training program is offered throughout the province in partnership with Nanaimo's Malaspina University-College. Since introducing the training program, over 100 students have participated in the program.

Certification Renewal

Before certificates expire, fallers will receive renewal packages with an invoice. New faller cards will be sent after fees are paid.



The long-expected annual renewal fee system calls for:

- \$150 annual fee to renew faller certifications
- A reduction to \$100 for individual fallers registered in the independent category of the Council's SAFE Companies program

Faller Re-evaluation Program

The next step in the evolution of faller certification begins with a pilot faller re-evaluation program that will involve assessing fallers' skills and knowledge at least once every three years. The process will also provide an opportunity for fallers to raise their certification level, which reflects the slope and tree diameter they were originally evaluated on. Fallers can be re-evaluated by Council-trained faller supervisors working on site or they can arrange for a qualified supervisor trainer (QST) to conduct the re-evaluation on a fee-for-service basis.

The ultimate goal of both the certification renewal and re-evaluation programs is to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities in the woods.

For more information visit www.bcforestsafe.org.