



# SafeTalk



## SAFER Conferences Well Attended



USW District 3 HSE Coordinator Ron Corbeil and Local 1-405 president Stan McMaster present Christine Mota from HG Insurance in Castlegar one of the many door prizes that were won in Cranbrook.



Retired national USW health and safety department head Andy King facilitated a workshop on Bill C-45 and the role of the criminal code in health and safety.

The Safety Advisory Foundation for Education and Research (SAFER) recently held conferences in Kelowna And Cranbrook BC. SAFER is a joint union-management organization that was negotiated back in 1988. The forest industry employers in the southern interior and coastal BC

contribute 1/2 cent for every employee-hour worked. The one day conferences attracted approximately 140 participants from the union and management. There were workshops on the rehabilitation of injured workers, Bill C-45



Ray Hudon from Local 2009 facilitated sessions to both union and management on effective supervision.

supervision training and human factors. SAFER would like to thank the speakers, presenters, WorkSafeBC, door prize donators and the organizing committees.

## Coming Events

December 8-9 USW Level 1, SMAC, Winnipeg Man.  
January 18-20 TLA Convention, Victoria BC

### Fatality in Local 1-1937

It is with great sadness that we report on November 14, 2011 Michael Robert "Mikey" McInnes, age 24, was fatally injured when he was struck by a vehicle at a marshalling point near Woss BC on Northern Vancouver Island. Michael worked for Holbrook Dyson Logging as part of the road crew.

He is survived by his mom and dad, Brenda & Roger McInnes, his brother, Kristopher (Terra Strachan)

McInnes, Grandparents, Gracie (Ron) Bentley, Connie Bergen, Uncle Brent (Christine) Bergen and family, Uncle Bruce (Kristine) McInnes and family, Uncle Rob (Corine) McInnes and family, Aunt Donna (Dave) Cornich and family, Aunt Brenda Page. Further survived by numerous cousins, other relatives and many friends.

Our sincere condolences go out to Michael's family, friends and coworkers.

In lieu of flowers, donations for a memorial bench at the top of the bowl at the sportsplex skate park for Mike can be made to the Michael McInnes memorial account at the Coastal Community Credit Union in the Discovery Harbour.



**Michael Robert "Mikey" McInnes**  
July 25, 1987 - Nov. 14, 2011



Reynold Hert the Chair of the BC Forest Safety Council was the key note speaker at the conferences. Reynold relayed the key elements of world class companies in health and safety; leadership, basics done well, employee involvement, hazard recognition and focus on greatest opportunity.

## HAZARD ALERT

**Injury Type :** Serious eye injury

**Core Activity :** Plywood or veneer mill

A young worker was injured while performing maintenance on a pneumatic jackhammer that was still connected to the air supply source.

**Injury Type :** Concussion, bruising

**Core Activity :** Chip hauling

A worker was tarping the load of a chip truck trailer. The worker fell about 18 feet from the top of the trailer into a roadside drainage ditch. The worker was not using a personal fall protection system.

**Injury Type :** Abrasions, soft-tissue injuries

**Core Activity :** Log hauling

The wheels of a logging truck's trailer slid off the side of a forest resource road, causing the trailer and truck to roll over an embankment. The driver, a young worker, sustained minor injuries.

**Injury Type :** Close call

**Core Activity :** Log hauling

A logging truck transporting overlength logs lost traction on an adverse incline. The truck slid back down the hill and the trailer went over an embankment.

**Injury Type :** Penetrating wound of leg

**Core Activity :** Log processing

A log process operator was processing logs on a landing. A broken chain link shot through the polycarbonate safety glass window of the processor cab and struck the operator's leg.

**Injury Type :** Close call

**Core Activity :** Wood pellet manufacture

A dust explosion in the wood fibre system caused extensive damage to the exterior cladding of a wood pellet mill.

**Injury Type :** Close call

**Core Activity :** Log harvesting

An avalanche estimated to cover 1.5 hectares and to be 10 metres deep came down on a forest service road. The slide mostly buried the pickup truck of a worker who had just arrived at the site. The worker was able to exit the truck through the driver's side window.

**Injury Type :** Close call

**Core Activity :** Mechanized tree falling

A feller/buncher was on a slope in a cut block, harvesting trees. The feller/buncher started to slide down the slope and struck a tree stump, causing it to flip on its side. The feller/buncher continued to slide, rolled onto its roof, and caught on fire. The operator exited the cab in the early stages of losing control and escaped without injury.

### Province of BC Asks for Feedback on Backroads

With planned changes to the Natural Resource Road Act, the provincial government is turning to industry and other user-groups for feedback on backroads throughout B.C.

A website has been set up to gain feedback on the current state of resource roads and how permit applications and usage could improve.

Transportation and Northern Safety Director with the B.C. Forest Safety Council Rick Walters says a re-writing of the Act aims to streamline regulatory processes.

"The proposal here is to put the legislative requirements in acts and regulations under one roof so to speak," said Walters.

Walters says as it stands, permits and use requirements for resource roads fall under several different jurisdictions.

You can access the site at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof.nr>

### DuPont Worker Wins \$500,000 in Whistleblower Retaliation Lawsuit

By Mike Holter

**(LEGAFI)** -- The New Jersey Superior Court Appellate Division has upheld a lower court's decision to award \$500,000 to a former DuPont Chambers Works Employee who says he was retaliated against for filing an OSHA complaint.

Former chemical plant operator John "Jack" Seddon filed a whistleblower lawsuit against DuPont Chambers Works after employees allegedly retaliated against him between 2003 and 2005 for filing an OSHA complaint. Seddon raised concerns about what he believed was a potential public safety hazard in a phosgene reactor.

Phosgene is a critical component of the chemical warfare agent phosgene oxime. If the reactor had blown up, Seddon said, there would have been a great loss of life.

"DuPont should be ashamed of itself," said Seddon's attorney. "They should apologize to Mr. Seddon and the surrounding community."

Seddon alleged in the DuPont whistleblower lawsuit that from 2003 to 2005, DuPont retaliated against him for making an OSHA complaint by cutting his overtime, reducing his work hours, changing his shifts, and giving him poor performance evaluations.

Seddon sued DuPont under the state Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA) in 2004.

A jury verdict originally awarded Seddon more than \$2 million in lost wages, punitive damages and attorney fees. DuPont appealed, and an appellate court reversed the lower court's decision, ruling that Seddon could not win a lost-wage claim under CEPA unless he proved DuPont caused him to resign or retire.

Seddon appealed the appellate court's ruling that he had to prove "lost wages" under CEPA, and the Supreme Court reversed the appellate court's decision.

The Supreme Court found that lost wages are recoverable in a CEPA case, even in the absence of a "constructive discharge." The Supreme Court reinstated the jury verdict and damages award in favor of Seddon.

"This is a great day for this community," said Seddon's attorney. "It's a great victory over an arrogant corporation that puts profit over its people."