



# SafeTalk



## Tragedy Strikes Twice in Local 1-1937



The month of July saw two tragic incidents that shook the membership of Local 1-1937. On July 5 John Phare was fatally injured when struck by a tree near Sechelt BC and on July 24 Jeremy Tanaka was killed when struck by a tree near Holberg BC.

John Phare age 60, was killed July 5th at noon while helping battle a forest fire on the Sunshine Coast near Sechelt BC. John was working for the BC Wildfire Service falling trees when he was struck by another tree which may have had damage to the root system due to the fire.

Jeremy Tanaka, age 38, of Port Hardy was falling timber near Holberg BC when he was struck by a dislodged tree at about 9:00 a.m. on July 24.

There were two other logging fatalities in the month of July:

- On July 11th, a manual tree faller was struck and fatally injured while falling trees in the North Coast area of BC.
- on July 27th a skidder operator was fatally injured when he was struck by a log while working on a cut block 30 kilometres outside of Revelstoke BC.



John Phare was born in Davis Bay on November 18, 1954. He died defending his greater community on July 5, 2015. John was 60 years old.

A meeting has been called by the Workers Compensation Board that will be attended by all the stakeholders including the United Steelworkers to look for answers in to these tragedies.

## Coming Events

- September 8 Emergency Preparedness BCFED, Cranbrook, BC
- September 9 - 10 Local 7619 USW Level 2, Kamloops BC
- September 9 - 11 SFL Health & Safety Conference, Saskatoon Sask.
- September 18 Women's H&S in the Workplace BCFED, Kitimat, BC

## Inquest into Burns Lake Explosion Wraps Up



The inquest into the deaths of Robert Luggi Jr. and Carl Charlie in the explosion and fire at the Babine Forest products mill in January of 2012, has concluded after nearly three weeks of witness testimony.

The presiding Coroner, Chico Newell has completed his charge to the jury on July 29th after hearing 13 days of testimony from 53 witnesses, many who had also testified at the inquest into the deaths of Glenn Roche and Allan Little at Lakeland Mills. USW members who worked at the mill on the night of the explosion, local 1-424 president Frank Everitt and district 3 health, safety and environment coordinator Ron Corbeil were among the witnesses.

After more than two days of deliberations the coroner's jury came back with 33 recommendations late Friday July 31st. Many of the recommendations looked for improved communications amongst all the stakeholders.

Several recommendations emphasised a need for more involvement with the members from the First Nations community.

More involvement by the joint occupational health and safety committee as well as an avenue to have a WorkSafeBC officers resolve issues that go unresolved was recommended. As well as semi annual auditing to ensure committees were effective. It was recommended to the Minister of Justice to amend 217.1 of the Criminal Code to add "anyone who fails to take steps to prevent harm" commits an offence. Several recommendations were made to give the Office of the Fire Commissioner the resources and ability to inspect mills on unincorporated lands and first nations land.

For a complete list of the recommendations: [www.safer.ca](http://www.safer.ca)

## HAZARD ALERT

### Awareness and control of static electricity

Industrial and manufacturing processes can generate and store static electricity (also known as electrostatic energy). In a flammable or explosive atmosphere, a discharge of static electricity can become an ignition source. A fire or explosion resulting from such a discharge could have devastating consequences for your workers and your business.



A worker was draining paint and residue from an aerosol can into a drum when an explosion occurred. The worker was badly burned. The equipment was not bonded and grounded, and static electricity may have ignited flammable gases and vapours.

#### How to recognize the hazard

Static electricity is an electric charge generated when two surfaces in close proximity are moved relative to each other. Common scenarios where static electricity can be generated in industrial and manufacturing operations include:

- Liquid flowing through a hose or pipe (or its opening)
- Containers being filled with liquids
- Liquids being mixed or blended
- Sprays or coatings being applied
- Dust being conveyed in a pneumatic tube
- Non-conductive material moving across rollers

#### How to control static electricity

##### Bonding and grounding

Good installation practices to safely discharge static electricity involve bonding and then grounding the conductive equipment that produces static electricity.

**Bonding** means permanently or temporarily joining all metal parts together. This helps keep the bonded objects at the same level of potential energy, eliminating the risk of static sparks between them.

**Grounding** means establishing a conductive path between a bonded object and the earth. The conductive path to the earth discharges the built-up static electricity to ground. The usual method of bonding and grounding is by means of metal clamps and wires.

### Pacific Coast University Hosts First Onsite Academic Course



Mayor Mike Ruttan (back row, 5th from left) of the City of Port Alberni welcomed a group of students participating in the first onsite delivery of an academic course at the University and in the Alberni Valley.

*The Changing Nature of Work: Implications for the field and practice of Disability Management* is being delivered as an intensive three-day, 1.5 credit course by Lynn Shaw, PhD, the University's Vice President Academic in collaboration with key selected guest speakers.

In welcoming participants to the University, community and region, the Mayor of Port Alberni, Mike Ruttan remarked on how fundamental the "changing nature of work" has affected the Alberni Region over the last three decades, with rapidly changing national and international economics, coupled with major technological advances transforming a region once exclusively dominated by forestry and fishing related activities into one where a range of sustaining economic activities, including education, must be developed.

*The Changing Nature of Work: Implications for the field and practice of Disability Management* is part of the University's Bachelor in Disability Management (BDM) program which was officially launched in Fall 2014 with an on-going program of new course development and delivery.

### McIntyre Powder Project Update



Janice Martell has posted on YouTube/Facebook re: the progress of the McIntyre Powder Project's voluntary registry. Feel free to share in your circles. [Video](#)