



FISA UPDATE – 20TH DECEMBER 2016

Best Wishes to FISA members for Christmas and the New Year

Thanks go to all those who are supporting the FISA Working Groups. In particular the volunteers and companies who provide staff, meeting rooms and refreshments. Thanks also to our sponsors who support events and publications. This year special thanks to: Scottish Woodlands, Egger, Tilhill, BSW, FC, Euroforest, and Newton Rigg College.

Each month we receive a range of queries on forestry health and safety. The FISA Working Groups help provide the information in response either directly or via the website.

For example this week, we have had queries on the type of lighting used for forestry night work near a substation; who or what information should be sought prior to works on a site with potential live ordinance; and whether other sites have used satellite phones.

Thank you also to all companies who have provided safety alerts and reported accidents to FISA. There is great learning for us all in the review of these and maintaining awareness throughout the FISA membership and beyond.

We do however need greater involvement of ‘front-line’ forest floor operators and contractors in the FISA Working Groups. If you can’t make it to meetings; but would like to get involved; you could help for example by joining conference calls or reviewing safety documents via email.

If you would like to get involved, please email info@ukfisa.com

THANK YOU

A ROUND UP OF THE FISA WORKING GROUPS

Managing Safety Documents

Hans Fairley of Stihl has recently taken on the role of chair for this Working Group. This WG is well supported with a range of technical; contractor and forestry expertise; but if anyone else out there would like to help with the review of the updated FISA safety guides, please get in touch. If you're unable to get to meetings; but would like to get involved, you could help review draft updated safety guides via email?

Currently the WG are focussing on the update of approximately thirty FISA safety guides over the next three years. In the first batch of updates are the '300 series' of chainsaw guides; along with FISA Guide 802 - Emergency Planning and a new FISA Guide 706 - Timber Haulage. The safety guides require an update to ensure that the details match today's methods of work and equipment used; times have changed since the safety guides were last written! The guides will also be re-styled to make them easier to print – something requested by the majority of the twenty-eight FISA members who replied to our recent survey as to how they wanted the guides to look.

The first guide to be put out in the new style will be FISA Safety Guide 802 - Emergency Planning. This guide has been sponsored by Trackplot. As well as the new style, the safety guides are available for sponsorship, and will carry the sponsors' logo on the back page. If you're interested in helping with sponsorship, the 300 series and new 706 Timber Haulage safety guides will be available for sponsorship, your chance to have your company logo on display!

The WG includes input from The Arboriculture Association, on a small number of chainsaw safety guides which cross over both groups and will carry the logos of both FISA and the Arboriculture Association.

The WG updated the 'Guidance on Managing Health & Safety in Forestry' in 2014. This will be updated and published in the new styling in early 2017.

All safety guides will remain free to download on the FISA website. Print copy is available to purchase from FISA.

Safety communications

We need a new chair and more members for the Safety Communications Working Group. Please get in touch if this is a subject you have expertise in or would like to contribute?

This WG ensures we have updated and managed FISA website, regular member communication and free to download safety information.

As CEO I attend and present at a number of industry events to help raise awareness of FISA work and what it needs to do next. I also meet with a number of forest and safety industry groups to share information; groups like AFAG, IOSH, ROSPA and the regulator HSE. FISA do have a stand at the APF; and attend other shows like the Royal Welsh & Royal Highland on Steering Group member stands.

In addition, I have issued a number of press articles, to reach a wider audience.

Thanks to the support of two Steering Group members, Scottish Woodlands & Egger; we have recently undertaken a survey across the FISA membership sectors. Fifteen FISA members were contacted to ask how we could improve our communications. Thank you to those who contributed. The results and any recommendations will be reported anonymously to the Steering Group and will be incorporated into the FISA Strategic Plan.

FISA have agreed to manage the forestry industry Safety Health and Awareness Days (SHADS) in future. In 2016, the two SHADS were jointly funded by the HSE, FC, FISA and Steering Group member sponsorship (Scottish Woodlands, Egger, Tilhill & Euroforest). Going forward FISA needs to raise funding (with the help of sponsors) to fund the entire event. These events are well attended; featuring topical practical demonstrations and events will continue to move to new regional locations.

Do you have topics you would like to see at these events?

The draft FISA Strategic Plan will be circulated to members and the wider forestry industry shortly. The plan will set out strategy and priorities for the next three years.

Learning & Behavioural Change

Chaired by Chris Pike of Tilhill, this group is well supported but we do need to increase contractor input.

The WG is responsible for reviewing and publishing safety alerts received by FISA from members and the wider industry. Thanks to members who have reported incidents, accidents and alerts. Please keep sending these reports in.

The reports help the industry to learn from what went wrong. The WG can help you to put a safety alert or incident report together.

The group are looking at ways to record and collate accident and incident statistics to measure, monitor and benchmark the industries safety record. Forestry remains one of the most hazardous industrial sectors, with a fatality rate three times that of construction.

Ultimately when FISA has provided information and learning on behalf of the Industry, its behaviour that needs to change. A change in behaviour is all about people changing their way of thinking and working. A pretty hard task! Examples of poor behaviour classically include violation of rules; uncorrected actions; lack of employer/employee awareness; lack of resources provided to allow safe methods of work and lack of peer pressure to adopt best practice and routinely failing to learn from near-misses. This requires strong and committed leadership and is the reason FISA is constituted as it is; to engage and challenge Industry leaders directly in its Steering Group.

This challenge will also be increasingly focused on forest and woodland landowners and their Agents with the aim of:

- Raising awareness of the landowners legal responsibilities; Duty of Care; best practice and innovation
- Promoting the reporting of accidents and near misses
- Pro-active supply chain engagement, operation and procurement that promotes best practice
- Offering training to Landowners and Agents in managing health and safety in forestry, and Forest Works Manager (FWM) training where appropriate

In early December FISA will present its first Safety Award to David Hornby, thanks to Egger for sponsoring the award. Nominations please for future awards?

Safety Skills & Competency Development

Provision of the FISA chainsaw refresher, chainsaw supervisor and FWM courses are on-going.

The WG regularly meet and review training course content and delivery with Lantra, for example the development of a new 'assisted felling of edge tree course'. There has also been on-going discussions with training providers to set up 'timber crane training', possibly as part of the driver CPC.

FISA is also reviewing and contributing to training courses with other training providers; maintaining the quality of forestry training provision by the wider industry.

Discussions have included support for use of a Skills Card and a Contractor Register. This would for example allow FWM's to record work experience, sites worked and machinery training, to promote their services and demonstrate competence to prospective employers.

The group has an on-going input to the chainsaw project through AFAG. This project is aimed at looking at how highly skilled chainsaw work is managed; costed

on site; and how a chainsaw cutter gains the high levels of experience and competency to enable them to work in these challenging working environments.

The group continues to contribute to the Forest Machine Operator (FMO) training review through the Industry Leadership Group & the Forest Machine Operator provisional register update with City & Guilds.

Work continues with the updating of skyline guidance and promotion and recognition of LOLER and PUWER (regulations) to contractors, through talks with industry users, FC and HSE.

The group has issued clarification on managing timber stack heights; which will be reflected in the updated Safety Guides.

Forest Haulage

Mick Bottomley of FC (previously BSW) chairs this WG. This group has a good range of members; but more input from other parts of the UK (other than Scotland) would be welcome.

The group have produced the succinct and easy to follow 'Driver Safety Guide', which is free to download on the FISA website. A number of timber processors are handing out this guide to drivers at their weighbridges. The new FISA Safety Guide 706 - Timber haulage is in the first batch of new guides to be issued.

Work with the Timber Transport Forum, particularly on the review of navigation systems and wire watchers, has been undertaken. Information will be made available to the wider industry in 2017.

Initial scoping of a GIS system, which could have carried data directly from Client and OS maps was reviewed by the group; but grant fund application to assist with the cost of development was unsuccessful. These types of systems are coming to the market and developing fast to provide solutions. A number of FISA members are using these types of systems and willing to share their experience.

Timber Crane Training: the group are looking at courses which can be carried out by companies in house or via provision by specialist training providers. To establish a recognised FISA standard. At a later date, if a training provider can move forward with the training as a CPC module, this would be FISA's preferred option and aim.

The Sawmilling Safety WG have recently met (a separate WG to FISA). There is an overlap in sawmilling transport & timber transport with health and safety. FISA will link to this group to share safety information.

Forest owner's awareness of the appropriate standards in roading and access is a topic for the group in future. This will no doubt raise further debate on use of goalposts for example.

Electricity & Utilities Protocols

Emily Ramsay who has chaired this WG has stepped down on her retirement from FC; a new chair for this group will soon be in place. This group is well attended, with a wide range of members. Safety alerts and incident reports received show that contact with overhead lines remains a major issue in forestry. Contact with live lines will potentially kill you, it is frightening how many accidents and incidents of this kind have been reported and could so easily have been fatal.

The group updated FISA Safety Guide 804 and the 'contact with live lines' information sheet, both can be found on the FISA website.

Goalposts: the group wants to see more discussion around their use and management; what are your thoughts on responsibilities, risks and management of goalposts?

More urban forestry and wind farms in forests present the added risk of damage and fatality from contact with underground services. This is a topic to be reviewed by the group in 2017.

This WG work share ideas with Utility Arborist Group (UAG).

Worksite Management

Previously chaired by Tom Davidson of James Jones, with a new chair, Sam Booth of Egger. This WG have developed a number of documents, which are free to download on the FISA website, for example:

- Forest Works Manager (FWM) checklist
- Example Standard Risk Assessment
- Example COSHH Report
- HAVS Guidance and risk management
- Lone Working Risk Assessment and guidance example

FISA has a range of site safety sign templates. If you would like copies please email with your member number to info@ukfisa.com.

Occupational Health: every year across all UK industries 1.5 million workers suffer from ill health caused or made worse by work. In some industries occupational

health issues affected double the number of headline safety incidents recorded (HSE figures).

Occupational health is generally more difficult to manage than safety. The causes and consequences of poor safety at work are immediate and often relatively straight forward to deal with. Work related issues causing chronic or underlying ill health can be more difficult to spot.

It can often take time for symptoms to develop, so the connection between cause and effect is less obvious. Once the problems are recognised, the challenge is to work out and implement the solution. The solution may vary dependent on a number of factors, for example the site; the work force; the equipment. This group have provided information on a number of occupational health issues; but they are working with the HSE to try to establish the most important ones for FISA to focus on.

Site Welfare: the nature and scale of facilities required to be provided on site will depend on the size, location and type of work. This is not just about toilet facilities; but ensuring that chemicals and oil can be washed off. The group will shortly add its recommendations for the arrangements for appropriate site welfare provision, to the FISA website.

Dealing with Fires and Managing of Public Access will be topics to be addressed and for guidance to be added to the FISA website in 2017.

The group also assist with the review and update of the Safety Guides, and are encouraging PPE manufacturers to consider a design of spray suit better suited to the tough forestry planting site environment.

Machinery Plant & Equipment

The WG researches and communicates with manufacturers and users and inputs to the FISA Safety Guides for various machines, plant and equipment.

The group involves specialist manufacturers. A number of topics are being reviewed, including skylining. The group are keen to ensure those occasional visitors to site, like fitters, can access and work on site safely. The group will put an example machinery check sheet onto the FISA website and are tasked with how equipment fault information and recall notices can be made more widely available.

The group assists in the review of safety alerts and incident reports.

Once again, thank you to all members who have contributed, lead and sponsored the work of FISA in 2016 and best wishes to all for the New Year.

G. Clark

FISA CEO
20/12/16

