

Wood Pellet & Bioenergy Safety Summit: Collective Commitment to a Safer Industry

Courtyard by Marriott, Prince George, 900 Brunswick Street, Prince George, BC V2L 2C3

Agenda & Speaker Bios

Tuesday, November 5, 2024	
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Registration, Hot Breakfast and Networking
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gordon Murray, WPAC - Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables & WPAC Safety Committee Chair - Mike Tasker, WorkSafeBC
9:00 am – 9:20 am	WPAC Safety Committee Projects: 2024 and Beyond Speaker: Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables and WPAC Safety Committee Chair Learn about what WPAC's Safety Committee has been working on in 2024 and have your say on what should be focused on for 2025.
9:20 am – 9:40 am	WPAC's Commitment to Process Safety Management (PSM) Speaker: Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Director of Research and Technical Development, WPAC The industry has committed to adopting and integrating Process Safety Management (PSM) over the next 5-7 years. Hear about the tool, its elements, what we've done so far and where we are headed.
9:40 am – 10:00 am	PSM: Specifics of Implementation Speaker: Bill Laturnus, Senior Safety Advisor, Manufacturing BC Forest Safety Council So now that the industry has committed to PSM, how do we implement? Dive deeper into WPAC's phased approach to PSM and some of its elements.
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Coffee Break and Networking
10:15 am – 11:15 am	PSM: Specifics of Implementation Workshop Speaker: Bill Laturnus, Senior Safety Advisor, Manufacturing, BC Forest Safety Council Engage with colleagues to work through self-assessments worksheets, share observations and provide input on the worksheets.

11:15 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Drum Dryer Hazards and Opportunities for Improvement Speakers: Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Director of Research and Technical Development, WPAC; Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables and WPAC Safety Committee Chair</p> <p>WPAC established a drum dryer working group earlier this year to examine trends, identify opportunities for improvement and formulate recommendations. Hear about the key take aways from the symposium in April and the first steps taken. Provide your thoughts on drum dryer hazards and opportunities for improvement.</p>
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	Lunch and Networking
12:45 pm – 1:15 pm	<p>Get Ready for BC's New Combustible Dust Regulation Speaker: Bill Laturnus, Senior Safety Advisor, Manufacturing, BC Forest Safety Council</p> <p>A look at the new BC Combustible Dust Regulation and the personnel ("qualified persons") required for risk assessments.</p>
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm	<p>WorkSafeBC: Trending Safety Initiatives Speakers: Mike Tasker, Occupational Safety Officer, Prevention Field Services, WorkSafeBC; Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Director of Research and Technical Development, WPAC; Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables and WPAC Safety Committee Chair</p> <p>Hear about the trending safety initiatives in BC and have your say on what should be included in the WPAC Safety Committee 2025 workplan.</p>
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Coffee Break and Networking
2:15 pm – 3:45 pm	<p>Workplace Mental Health Skills for Workers and Supervisors Speaker: Shirley Hogan, Manager of Education and Projects, Canadian Mental Health Association</p> <p>Expand your knowledge and skills and learn how to support your colleagues struggling with a mental health challenge or situation affecting their mental health in this mini workshop.</p>
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<p>Closing Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gordon Murray, WPAC - Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables & WPAC Safety Committee Chair - Mike Tasker, WorkSafeBC

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Julie Griffiths, MSc, P.Geo., Quality, Sustainability & Environmental Program Coordinator, Shaw Renewables & Chair of WPAC Safety Committee

Julie is the Quality, Sustainability and Environmental Program Coordinator for Shaw Renewables, a division of The Shaw Group Limited. Shaw Renewables operates two pellet plants, one that produces industrial pellets in New Brunswick, and one that produces primarily residential pellets in Nova Scotia. Julie leads Renewables' quality and sustainability programs and dust and fire prevention initiatives and works on a multitude of continuous improvement projects. She has a Master of Science from Dalhousie University and has gained a keen eye for constant improvement, safety, and process efficiency from continuous education in Lean and Leadership Development. Julie has worked across several industries and has settled into the wood pellet sector. She is currently the Chair of the WPAC's Safety Committee.

Bill Laturnus, Senior Safety Advisor, Manufacturing, British Columbia Forest Safety Council

Bill Laturnus is a Senior Safety Advisor, manufacturing at the British Columbia Forest Safety Council (BCFSC). Bill has extensive experience in sawmill operations, and, as a proponent of Process Safety Management (PSM), supports the incorporation of practical applications of PSM at wood pellet worksites. Bill has recently conducted key safety activities focusing on risk reduction of hazards in wood pellet operations (WPAC). Bill also has 13 years of experience auditing Safety Management Systems (SMS) in forest products manufacturing.

Gordon Murray, Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada

Since 2009, Gordon Murray has been the Executive Director of the Wood Pellet Association of Canada, where he works as an ardent advocate on behalf of Canadian producers, traders, ports, terminals, shipping companies, equipment suppliers and all those who want to participate in growing a safe and prosperous wood pellet industry. Before his role with WPAC, Gordon worked in operations and finance in the wood products industry. Gordon has a Bachelor of Science in forestry from the University of British Columbia. He is both a registered professional forester and a chartered professional accountant.

Mike Tasker, Occupational Safety Officer, Prevention Field Services, WorkSafeBC

Mike works as an Occupational Safety Officer in the Prince George regions of WorkSafeBC where he has been employed for 24 years. Prior to joining WorkSafeBC, Mike spent many years in a wide range of industry positions including supervision and safety management. In 2004, he achieved national accreditation as a Canadian

Registered Safety Professional through the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering. Mike is the co-creator of WorkSafeBC's new online "Supervising for Safety" e-learning program. This program is an online adaptation of a two-day classroom-based course that is a flexible engaging approach to reviewing best practices in safety management with helpful tips you can put to use right away. Since its inception, the Supervising for Safety Program has been completed by more than 12,000 students.

Dr. Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Director of Research and Technical Development, WPAC

Dr. Fahimeh Yazdan Panah is the Director of Research and Technical Development at WPAC and a Research Associate at The University of British Columbia UBC). She has over 15 years of experience in bioenergy, managing numerous bioenergy projects for governments, manufacturers, and technology developers. For the past decade, she has spearheaded research studies on biofuel densification, pretreatment, storage, and handling. She has co-authored more than 80 technical reports and peer-reviewed publications. Fahimeh also serves as the project lead within the ISO Technical Committee 238 (Solid Biofuels) and previously chaired the ISO Technical Committee 300 (Solid Recovered Biofuels). She earned her PhD and MASc from the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at UBC and holds a bachelor's degree from Amirkabir University of Technology. She is a registered Professional Engineer with Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia and a certified Project Management Professional with the Project Management Institute.