

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



November 8, 2019

Important Notice about SAWP Housing Fire Protection

Fire Code - Urgent Attention Required

A fire in SAWP worker housing in Abbotsford last year placed fire safety on the priority list for fire departments. Recent meetings with Abbotsford and Kelowna Fire Departments have confirmed that departments are looking to enforce requirements and changes have been made to reflect these requirements on 2020 SAWP Housing Inspection Forms. To avoid the unnecessary expense of re-inspection of SAWP premises, employers should ensure that fire safety systems are up-to-date before scheduling a SAWP housing inspection.

There are three fire safety topics which SAWP employers to be aware of:

1. Smoke and safety alarms. Any accommodation being used or altered to be used for SAWP housing requires *smoke alarms* to be hardwired and interconnected. For housing with occupancy of 10 or more people, interconnected *fire alarms* are generally required.

Fire protection	Less than 10 occupants	More than 10 occupants
Interconnected Smoke Detector	Required	
Interconnected Fire Alarm System	Not required	Required*

* "This requirement may be waived where an exit or public corridor serves not more than 4 sleeping rooms and each room has direct access to an exterior exit facility leading to ground level", according to the Abbotsford Fire Safety Services.

There are exceptions to having smoke detectors in each room, but "at least one interconnected, hardwired smoke alarm is required for each level including basements," according to the Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service bulletin.

2. A professional review by a *qualified Fire Alarm Code Consultant/Design Engineer* who is a *certified Fire Inspector* will ensure growers install the proper type of system to meet regulations, and that the systems are professionally designed to work properly. Fire Departments note that properly designed systems are required to ensure that fire insurance claims are honored and to limit the liability of the SAWP employer.
3. Fire safety plans are required in some circumstances.

The WALI website has [important information for growers to review on fire protection requirements](#).

If you would like to directly access the regulatory requirements, the provincial fire code (section 2.8) and building code (part 9) outline most requirements for housing of 'non-family' tenants, such as SAWP workers. The [BC Building Code](#) and [BC Fire Code](#) are available on-line free of charge. However, there may be additional local fire regulations. Your Fire Department or a local Fire Alarm Code Consultant/Design Engineer can provide advice.

The smaller municipality's Fire Departments often do not have the resources to provide specific SAWP fire regulation information. Some growers have contacted nearby larger municipality fire departments for information.

This newsletter will carry further information on fire safety as we are able to obtain information and clarify the regulations with local fire departments.

Production Insurance Inspectors needed

The Production Insurance program is looking for "Qualified Vendors" to conduct summer field inspections services. The work includes yield estimating, evaluating crop management, confirming and quantifying crop damage on tree fruit and grape crops. The service area includes the Okanagan and other specified regions.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) opportunity is posted on BC Bid and closes on the 18th of November, 2019. To [access the RFQ](#):

- Select "browse for Bid Opportunities or Bid Results"
- Select "browse opportunities by organization"
- Scroll down and click on 'Ministry of Agriculture'
- Select "2021-1" (Tree Fruit and Grape Adjusting Inspection Services)
- Select "Supplier Attachments Exist" then select the PDF and open up the file.

Public Engagement - ALR Review

The initiative is called "Supporting Farmers"

The Ministry of Agriculture is holding a public consultation on the ALR. The sessions are to discuss how the province of B.C. can encourage farming and protect BC's farmland.

The deadline for response is November 15. If a large number of growers respond directly to the survey or submit information, government may be more willing to support packing, processing and value-added as a legitimate farm use by bonafide farmers.

Here is the [website for event online feedback](#)

SAWP

Apply for 2020 arrivals now

Starting July 15, 2019, Service Canada began accepting SAWP LMIA applications for arrival dates between January and March 2020. Employers may now submit LMIA's for any 2020 arrival dates..

SAWP Questions of the week

Where are the housing inspection and guidelines for 2020 SAWP and TFW-Ag Stream Programs?

The guidelines and a sample inspection form are on the [Housing page of the WALL website](#).

Has the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) application form changed?

No, the LMIA form is the same as last year.

Can I email the form to Service Canada?


No. You may fax or mail the form to Service Canada. An on-line LMIA application form is being tested, but no date for general availability is set.

Programs of Interest

Deadlines to apply is **Nov. 30** (unless otherwise noted)

- ★ Light Reflecting Materials [Program](#).
- ★ 2020 Replant Program [Replant applications](#)
- ★ [Tree Fruit Production Insurance](#) Application and Payment.

[AgriStability Forms](#) The final deadline to submit the forms to be eligible for 2018 claims is December 31, 2019. The forms are: T-1273 Statement-A-Harmonized AgriStability/AgriInvest Programs Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Individuals, or Statement A-Corporations/Co-operatives and Special Individuals. Producers who miss the December 31, 2019 deadline date will not be eligible for the 2018 program year benefits. You must also file your 2018 farm taxes to CRA to be eligible for AgriStability Program benefits. To contact the AgriStability Regional Office, telephone 1-877-343-2767.

 BCFGA Office: 250-762-5226 Toll free: 1-800-619-9022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, Monday - Thursday, local 1.● Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.● Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, part-time, local 3.● Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, part-time, local 4.
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BCFGA Board of Directors

Name		Telephone
Bhupinder (Pinder) Dhaliwal - President	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
Peter Simonsen - VP	Naramata	Cell/text 250-488-0363
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	Cell 250-499-0512
Sukhdeep (Deep) Brar	Summerland	Cell/text 250-462-5687
Karm Gill	Kelowna	Cell 250-863-9737
Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	Cell/text 250- 859-1229
David Machial	Oliver	Cell/text 250-485-2636
David Dobernigg	Vernon	Cell/text 250-550-8999

Meetings and Events - check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Date	Meeting	Details
Nov 12	BCFGA South Regional Annual Meeting	1:30pm-3:30 pm Oliver Parks & Recreation, Oliver, BC
Nov 14	BCFGA North Regional Annual Meeting	5-7 pm Ramada Hotel, Kelowna, BC
Nov 18-21	Canadian Weed Science Convention	Delta Grand Okanagan Resort
Nov 26-28	Annual Review, Caribbean SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
Nov 27	National Environment Farm Plan Meeting	Adrian Arts
Nov 28	Tender Fruit Grading Standards Review	Glen Lucas
Dec 2	Agriculture Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN) Kelowna workshop	More information to come.
Dec 4	BCFGA Board meeting	
Dec 6	SIR Board meeting	
Dec 12	Okanagan Basin Water Stewardship Council Meeting	
January 28	BCAC Agriculture Gala, Abbotsford	
February 11-12	BCFGA Annual Convention	Coast Capri, Kelowna
Feb 25	BC Tree Fruit Horticultural Symposium	Kelowna
9 am - noon, March 3	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Oliver	
1 - 4 pm, March 3	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Summerland	
9 am - noon, March 5	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Winfield	
6:30 - 9 pm April 8	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Creston	