

Media Release

A photograph of two forestry workers wearing yellow hard hats and orange high-visibility vests, standing outdoors in a forest setting.

3 March 2017

Safety Summit to deliver important reminder on safety in forestry

Hundreds of forestry professionals will come together to talk about safety in forestry at the Forest Industry Safety Summit to be held this month in Melbourne.

VicForests is a principle sponsor of this biennial event which will focus on the way people, culture, technologies and systems can help improve the safety of workers within the forestry industry.

Nathan Trushell, Acting CEO VicForests, said that the summit is a great way to remind industry of the importance of keeping their employees safe at work.

“Safety is the most important part of our jobs within the forestry industry,” Mr Trushell said.

“I can’t stress enough the responsibility we all hold to ensure each and every one of our workers can come to a safe work environment every day and make it home to their family each night.

“It is our overarching goal to achieve zero harm in everything we do.

“We made great strides towards this goal last year by reaching a period of 12 consecutive months without any staff lost time injuries as well as a 50 percent reduction in contractor lost time injuries.

“However, forestry is a dangerous job and our operations and activities must always be carried out with safety in mind.

“Safety needs to be at the core of everything we do to minimise the risk and ensure we have a safe workforce.

“VicForests’ sponsorship of this event is one part of our commitment to a culture of safety.

“A positive safety culture moves beyond training, regularly reviewing practices and considering new and improved ways to go about doing our jobs.

“Most importantly, it is the role of all of us to show leadership within our organisations to ensure we drive a culture of safety for the sake of our staff, our families and our businesses.

“I hope this two-day conference is thought provoking for everyone and provides some practical and useful ideas that can be implemented to make all of our workplaces safer,” Mr Trushell said.

The 2017 Forest Industry Safety Summit ran in Rotorua, New Zealand on 1-2 March and is on in Melbourne, Australia on 7-8 March.

For more information please visit <http://www.fiea.org.nz/forest-safety/>

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