

# Forestry Commission Health and Safety strategy

## Our vision

Everyone working with the Forestry Commission remains safe and well and our woodlands are safe and enjoyable places to visit.

## Why manage health and safety?

We manage health and safety because we care about people and we have legal duties.

## Our commitment to improve

We have always valued health and safety, but we recognise that there are significant improvements that can be made. This strategy sets out how we will achieve our vision over the next three years and beyond.

## Leadership

Health and safety will be one of the Forestry Commission's core values.

Leaders in the Forestry Commission have a clear **vision for health and safety and understand that:**

- Learning is key to improving;
- Health and safety must be at the heart of **decision making;**
- High standards of health and safety require **sustained commitment** of energy, time and resources.

## Behaviour

We will all behave in ways that build and uphold a **strong health and safety culture.**

We recognise that good Health and Safety is about how we **think and behave**, not just about procedures.

We understand that changing behaviour requires real **engagement** with everybody involved so that we all act safely, because **we want to be safe and healthy** – not just because we have been told to.

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## Working together

We are committed to building a health and safety culture based on trust, respect and cooperation.

We will work closely with the Forestry Commission Trade Unions in pursuit of this commitment.

We will involve the workforce – including all employees, the FC Trade Unions and **everyone working with the Forestry Commission**, including contractors, customers, partners and lessees.

## Working with other organisations

We are committed to working with others through the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) to raise health and safety standards throughout the industry.

We will maintain our membership of the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group.

## Learning

We will learn from experts, other industries and from each other and keep up to date with current thinking.

We will develop a culture for health and safety in which we can learn about problems and identify the root causes of accidents, near misses and incidences of occupational ill health without unfairly blaming individuals.

## Competence

The Forestry Commission will continue to develop a skilled and knowledgeable workforce with the confidence to do their job in a safe and healthy way.

We will focus on risk, promoting sensible and proportionate risk management, including planning for the unexpected.

## Public safety

Using the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Guiding Principles we will provide opportunities for members of the public to safely enjoy woodlands without taking away their sense of freedom and adventure.

## Evaluating progress

We will measure performance using key indicators to promote continual improvement.