

March 19, 2021

To our members and many valued supporters of the PVMA UTT/UTW Program, the past year has been a challenge for us all pushing us to the limit with adapting to the many challenges. Unfortunately, in 2020 we were unable to deliver the program as normal for the first time since its roll out because of the Pandemic. This year we are all still dealing with challenges, not only have we had to adapt our way of business, but also our way of life in many cases.

In 2021, we have made changes to our timing and delivery style of the UTT/UTW course this year to best protect the students that will be attending this program along with the instructors from the college and the instructors who come to us from the support of industry.

I have summarized the changes we have put in place below, for more information on the program please go to the PVMA website.

Timing:

Intake #1 May 3-14, 2021

Week 1: Delivery will be virtual

Days 1 – 5 Live Online Lecture

- Students to attend virtually to a Live Online Lecture. The student will need to log into a computer to view the live classroom lecture online. Students will be able to participate in any questions and answer segments and join in on discussions. A company could choose to have multiple students in a room for days 1-5 in a central location. Each company is responsible for COVID precautions independently week 1.
- Instructors will be able to use their regular teaching tools for demonstration and share with both the classroom students live and the online students via camera.
- Please note that due to the pandemic as well as the revised approach the field trip to the Fortis Education Centre has been removed, however we will add in more discussion/pictures to ensure the concepts are included.
- Students may want to supplement their learning by having related tools (i.e., power saw, ropes, climbing harness, climbing spurs etc. near them to aid in their learning)

Week 2: On site

Days 6 – 9 Field Evaluations

- Break participants into smaller groups to rotate to the 3 different areas.
 - Climbing Ropes and Knots
 - Tree rescues will be conducted using a rescue mannequin, instead of rescuing another student.
 - Power Saw
 - Aerial Trimming
- Masks are mandatory when social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained.
- Sanitizing of tools and touch surfaces will be carried out as students are switching tasks.
- ALL OUTSIDE, students will maintain their cohorts as much as possible (i.e., keep companies and work crews together),

Exams to be online, proctored by Olds College.

- There will be no food or beverage delivered onsite. All participants must provide his/her own meals/refreshments and abide by social distancing at all times.

Our mission is to ensure this is a safe and enriching experience for all those attending, I know there is a lot of change from the regular delivery of the program. But if the past year has taught us any thing, we are very resilient when it comes to change. I appreciate all the support we have received from the industry, along with the utility companies and Old's College as we work towards the delivery of the program this year.

X

Bob Gordon

Director PVMA UTT/UTW Program