



Rumblings



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Safety in Forestry Transportation

TruckSafe Rumblings is published biweekly to keep you informed on what is happening in forest hauling safety in BC. Call MaryAnne Arcand to provide input or get the news out on best practices and concerns in the industry.

It has been a busy couple of weeks for announcements and developments around forest safety. This issue of Rumblings will outline a few of the larger developments. To get further details on any of these, please visit our website at www.bcforestsafe.org, or call MaryAnne Arcand at 250.612.2267.

BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT :

The Forest Safety Council has unveiled its S.A.F.E. (Safety Accord Forestry Enterprise) Companies program, which will bring all companies, large and small, which work in BC's forest industry to a consistent standard of safety in their operations. Forest Minister Rich Coleman endorsed the SAFE Companies initiative, saying that any forest industry company which wants to work on the land base in BC will have to be certified under this initiative, which closely follows the WorkSafeBC COR (Certificate of Recognition) guidelines. Six Safety Advocates will be positioned throughout the province to assist companies through this process.

THE FOREST INDUSTRY IS GETTING ITS OWN OMBUDSMAN

The people who best know how to solve problems and resolve issues are the people who work and live with those problems and issues everyday. With that in mind, the BC Forest Safety Council has announced the creation of an independent Forest Safety Ombudsman's office. The Forest Safety Ombudsman will:

- Be an independent and persuasive voice to deal with safety concerns within the sector
- Provide confidentiality and protection for individuals and companies raising safety concerns, and ensure that companies and workers report unsafe practices, and exercise their right to refuse unsafe work without penalty
- Deal with safety issues that may arise between contractors and licencees
- Provide an independent perspective for consideration and review of any matter related to safety within the sector

The Ombudsman will be supported and funded by Industry and reside as an independent office within the Forest Safety Council. The appointment of the Ombudsman will be made after consultation and review with industry and government.

MINISTER OF FORESTS AND RANGE ANNOUNCES FORESTRY CORONER:

Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman says the Ministry will hire a Coroner specifically to look at the deaths which occurred in the forest industry in 2005, looking for patterns and consistent contributing factors, in an effort to put prevention measures in place. The government has set aside \$200,000 for

the investigations. The government will also hire special safety officials within the Ministry and BC Timber Sales.

CORONER FINDS DRUGS TO BE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN TRUCKING DEATH

The BC Coroner's Service released a report on Monday citing cannabis (marijuana) as a contributing factor in the death of Lloyd Booth near Houston in December. The Coroner's Report states that the level of cannabis in Booth's system was enough to cause impairment, and at this point in time no other contributing factors have been identified. The investigation continues. But it has raised a lot more questions than answers. How prevalent is drug and alcohol use in the forest industry?

In the TruckSafe Action Plan we spoke about looking at drug and alcohol use in the industry this year, but now it has been put in the public eye, and the pressure is on to "do something about it". We're going to have to work together on this one, and need your help to do it right, not pointing fingers or blaming. If you have ideas, or want to share your experiences (anonymously is fine), email or call MaryAnne Arcand. We need to take care that the public doesn't start labeling all truckers as substance abusers, and more announcements and information will be coming out shortly on how we're going to do that.

YOUR VOICE!

"Hi MaryAnne, have listened to the latest reports about the logging truck accident back in Dec. Your comments about smoking marijuana are right on target and I am hoping you will really push this. I worked in the forest industry for 25 years and it was prevalent back then. It is worse now. I would love to see random testing taking place, including managers! My sons are still working in the bush so I have a good idea how it is out there. My nephew is in the gas industry and he tells me that if they did proper testing he would lose over half his crew. I hope you can get somewhere with this. The public perception of marijuana has to change, maybe using ads somewhat like the MADD ones have on TV would help. I love logging and it is dangerous enough without mixing in the drugs. "

YOUR VOICE! Provides a spot for our Rumbings readers' feedback. We won't print names, so folks can speak freely, but we won't accept anonymous letters either, in order to have accountability. We reserve the right not to print materials that contain offensive language, blame particular individuals or is negative.

TRUCKSAFE HOTLINE CALLS

The TruckSafe Hotline has been receiving calls from all over the province – the Kootenays, Vancouver Island, Clearwater, and certainly north central BC. The trucking companies and mills that have been contacted as a result of calls are responding positively and taking the calls seriously.

Keep those calls and emails coming in!

1-877-324-1212 or arcand@bctrucksafe.org

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumbings, please forward this email along. Signing up is easy. [Just click here and you will be taken to our new sign up page](#). If you know someone who'd be interested but doesn't have email, forward their fax number to us at arcand@bctrucksafe.org