



Rumblings



A Publication of Forestry TruckSafe - A BC Forest Safety Council Initiative

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April 7, 2006

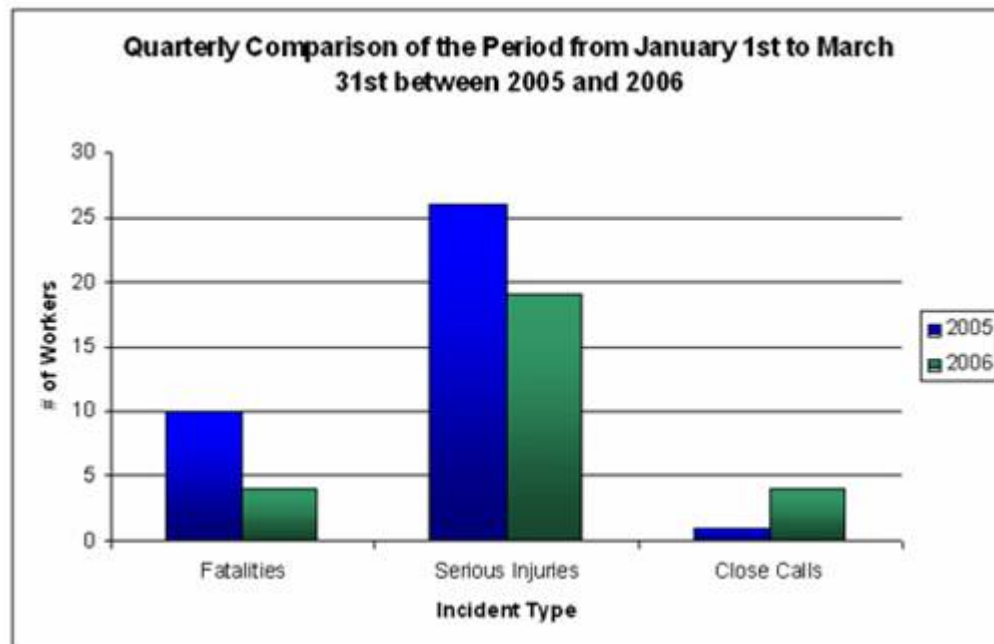
Issue #21

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.

Forest Industry Injuries and Fatalities down for the first quarter of 2006

The BC Forest Safety Council is pleased to release the injury and fatality numbers in the industry for the first quarter of 2006. This time last year we had 10 fatalities and 26 serious injuries. For the first 3 months of this year we had 4 fatalities and 19 serious injuries, a significant decrease over last year.



All the fatalities involved vehicles, and those numbers remain the same as last year.

Log hauling accounts for 2 deaths, as it did at breakup 2005, and the other two involved other forest workers in their work vehicles.

Category	2006		
	F*	I**	CC†
Manual Tree Falling	-	5	-

Yarding/Mechanical Harvesting	-	5	-
Log Hauling	2	3	2
Silviculture	-	-	-
Helicopter Logging	-	-	-
Forest Fire Fighting	-	-	-
Sawmills	-	5	2
Traveling to and from Work	-	-	-
Other	2	1	-
TOTAL	4	19	4

The 2005-06 Winter Haul Season Ends in the Interior – it’s breakup!

As of last Friday, it’s breakup in most of the interior and north, bringing the 2005-06 winter hauling season to an end. Most areas experienced a milder-than-normal winter, and a lot of the guys got more haul days than in the previous few years. Record breaking volumes of wood were hauled in to the mills in pine beetle infested areas (more numbers on that next week). Some roads experienced 300% to 400% increases in traffic – and yet, the incidence of crashes and serious injuries did not increase. Good job, guys! If you weren’t the pros that you are, things could have been a lot worse.

Spring brings changes at all levels of the industry

As spring unfolds there are all kinds of change coming down the pipe. Everything from the decision about Hours of Service for log truckers in BC (expected in May), to new OH&S regulations from WorkSafe, to market-based timber pricing, to changes in bull-board regulations, to Resource Road Maintenance Standards. We will do our best to keep you informed with accurate and timely information as it is verified and released. Please help distribute the information to fellow truckers and contractors. We still need to come up with a system of getting the information direct to truckers – and we’re very open to suggestions as to how to do that! So stay tuned, and we’ll do our best to get the right info into your hands.

Forestry TruckSafe Working Groups started on the Coast and in the Peace

Two working groups were formed in March to deal with regional issues. On the Coast/Vancouver Island a group of 12 has formed to look at steep slope hauling issues, including driver training and loaderman training. We’d like to invite steep slope haulers from the Interior (Revelstoke, Golden, Clearwater, etc) with similar concerns to join the group. Meetings will be by conference call. Email or call MaryAnne to join.

In the Peace, the working group will be multi-industry, (forestry, oil & gas, and mining), addressing the issues of shared road use, including cost-sharing of construction and maintenance, radio protocols, and rules of the road. So far we have participation from oil & gas, the OGC, MoFR, WorkSafeBC, ICBC, Canfor, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and Industry Canada. Again, the group is open for more participants, so feel free to call.

Forest Safety Ombudsman out and about

Roger Harris, the Forest Safety Ombudsman, attended the COFI Convention in Kelowna this week, meeting people (including Premier Gordon Campbell) and listening to their concerns. He was in such demand over the two days, that we've decided to take appointments during his attendance at the upcoming ILA Convention in Kamloops April 20, 21 & 22. If you'd like to meet with Roger in Kamloops, email him at harris@bcforestsafe.org

Your Voice – I got lots of emails in response to the complaints noted in the last Rumbings, including Trucking Companies and Mills from those areas which wanted to deal with their truckers and needed more details. Keep them coming in! Here's your opportunity to say your piece.

My husband is a logging truck driver and I am very interested in what is happening with the industry.

It is very interesting to read about the public complaints about the drivers. I, for one, can tell you stories that my husband has told me about mini-vans full of children pulling out in front of him in a loaded logging truck in snow dust. The public has to be educated too about what these machines actually weigh and how long it takes them to stop. N.G.

TruckSafe Trivia MoFR held 90 roadside checks during February, in which nearly 950 vehicles were stopped, resulting in 236 infractions, most of which were about documentation. 80% of the vehicles passed inspection. 45 warning tickets were issued, 24 violation tickets were given out, and 2 compliance notices.

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