



Rumblings



A Publication of Forestry TruckSafe ~ A BC Forest Safety Council Initiative
PH: 250.562.3215 ~ FAX: 250.562.9237 ~ EMAIL: arcand@bctrucksafe.org ~ WEB: www.bcforestsafe.org

May 5, 2006 ~ Issue 23

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.

Trucker Safety and Training Meetings around the province

Around the province licensees and trucking groups have been holding trucker safety and training meetings. This past week Weyerhaeuser sponsored trucker training sessions in Princeton, Penticton and Kamloops; the Williams Lake truckers are having Trucker Appreciation Day today; the ILA has sponsored a trucker meeting in Merritt; the NW Safety Summit happens next Saturday May 12 in Terrace; Houston will be the site of a trucker day May 31, for truckers from the Burns Lake, Houston, and Smithers areas; Mackenzie has had a working group going on safety for the past 2 months; Chetwynd mills are getting together for a safety day June 20. If there's one being offered near you, please participate. Find out what's going on with regulation changes, best practices and incident prevention and reporting. Be part of the solution!

Safety gear ideas – wrappers, boots & hi-vis clothing

Wrappers – New synthetic light-weight wrappers are on the market which comply with WorkSafe standards. They are considerably lighter to throw than chains, and are bright yellow – easily visible on the load. You can see them by going to www.cable-lite.com

Work Boots -Kevin Bonnett from Weyerhaeuser showed their truckers a new workboot design from JB Goodhue, with extra grips and synthetic caulks. Weyerhaeuser reports that most of their reportable injuries last year involved falling off trucks and trailers. Good boots are a must to maintain those three points of contact! They sell at Mark's Workwearhouse and Timberline for about \$140.

Hi-vis clothing – Richard Butler (a faller and QST by trade) has developed a great line of WorkSafe compliant hi-vis clothing, which eliminates the wearing of those uncomfortable vests. T shirts- coveralls, reversible jackets... you can see the complete line at rbvisionsafety.com or call Richard at 604 240 5752

Forestry TruckSafe Working Groups Update

Steep slope working group – the Coast and Vancouver Island members have been joined by representatives from the Interior (Clearwater area) and up north (Chetwynd) who also log on slopes above 18%. The group's goal is to develop a Standard Operating Procedure for Steep Slope Hauling including a risk management tool, a basic training standard for steep slope haulers, and basic training standards for loader operators in steep slope operations. The group is meeting by telephone monthly.

Peace Region Multi-Industry Road Safety Group – the group held its first teleconference last week, in

follow-up to the March 10 forum in Fort St John. Because of the urgency of the issues, the group decided to hold a 2 day face-to-face workout in Dawson Creek May 29 & 30, to roll up their sleeves and get down to determining some workable action items for immediate implementation. A survey will be coming out Monday May 8 to all the participants of the Mar 10 forum, so we can get your input for the working group.

Municipal leadership working group – formed at this week's North Central Municipal Association Conference and AGM, this group of Mayors, town councilors and Regional District directors will be looking at the issues specific to logging traffic going through the middle of their communities. The group currently represents towns along the Hwy 97 and Hwy 16 corridors from 100 Mile House north. This situation is also common on the Island and in the southern Interior, and we welcome municipal leadership from those communities as well. We'll be meeting via teleconference in order to have minimum impact on time and travel costs. Contact MaryAnne Arcand at 250 612 2267 for further information.

Latest Info on causes of truck crashes....

There is a new and interesting study conducted in the US which notes that driver behaviour causes most truck crashes. Here is the website link:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/news/news-releases/2006/032406.htm>

Your Voice

I drove fat trucks for about thirty years right up to 1999, then highway Tri Tri since then. I believe that we over loaded the fat trucks most every load we hauled. I have been saying for years that we were lucky we didn't have more accidents than we did. So hearing that there is going to be regulations on % grade and size of loads is good to hear.

The trouble I see in today's safety is the TFL holders in our areas have been contracting out their operations. Eliminating jobs, mostly people wearing calk boots thus eliminating the accidents that the people had in those jobs. In most cases just transferring those accidents to the contractors.

Some of these smaller contractors are bidding so low they cannot afford safety. The TFL holders as well as the contractors have gone to long days and 4 X 4 or 6 X 3 shifts. Also lowering the wages people are working at more than one job or working some times up to 31 days straight.

I have seen one driver working for three different contractors, heard about drivers working from 13 days to 31 days straight. I just heard of a driver I work with driving four days then falling on his days off. A contract driver was on the radio talking to his boss about the truck shutting off by itself every fifteen minutes, his boss told him to keep the fan going in hopes to keep the truck running longer. The driver had about ten miles of gravel to get loaded then back about fifteen then about forty on the highway. All they were worried about was getting the truck loaded and back to the shop to fix it, not what could happen.

The trouble is proving these things, because the drivers themselves don't want to rock the boat, they need the job. They will talk to other people but not to the ones that could make the difference.

I applaud you and all those that are working to make our highways and off roads safe for all the people that not only work in the forest industry but also those that travel our highways and off roads for recreation and other reasons.

Event Reminders

May 13, 2005 – Terrace- NorthWest Loggers Safety Summit – an all day workshop at the Coast Hotel; includes presentations by Roger Harris, the Forestry Ombudsman; Doug Enns, Chair of WorkSafeBC; Keith Rush, SAFE Companies; MaryAnne Arcand, Forestry TruckSafe; sponsored by the NWLA and Western Fallers. Call Mike McKibben (250)638 8729 or Bill Sauer (250) 638 6166

June 1, 2 & 3, 2005 – Prince George – Forest Expo- Canada 's biggest forest industry exposition; Seminars Thursday June 1 and Friday June 2 highlighting BC Forest Safety Council initiatives; there's still time to register. Call Trudy Swaan, at (250)563 8833 for more info.

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumbblings, 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

~ Copyright 2006 ~