



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

Sept 1, 2006



[Printable Version](#)

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.

Whose side are you on?

Tuesday's fatal crash on the Blackwater Rd south of Prince George is a clear reminder to all of us about what happens when vehicles cross the centre line. A loaded logging truck and an empty gravel truck collided when the northbound logging truck crossed into the oncoming southbound gravel truck's lane. Both trucks were from the same company, and had been working the same stretch of road for weeks, as the logging contractor was undertaking a major road resurfacing effort.



What brought it on? It's a puzzle, at this point. The logger was running night shift. The sun was just coming up. It was a clear, dry morning. It happened on pavement. The lines of sight were good. The curve was gradual. They both knew the road well. The final investigation will determine what caused it, but the truckers waiting in line for the road to re-open cited the same old issues – cycle times, long hours, fatigue. Whatever the reasons, another man is dead – another family mourning the loss of their husband and dad. And that is unacceptable.

Head on and oncoming swipes account for 18% of crashes with logging trucks, according to ICBC stats. The day of the Blackwater crash, I went up on the Finlay/Ossilinka road system, north and west of Mackenzie, looking into numerous complaints of aggressive and unsafe driving by logging trucks on a road shared with ore trucks. And darn near got run off the road twice myself, by loggers who weren't calling their kilometres, driving in severe dust without headlights, and ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD! Of the 8 logging trucks I encountered in a 40 km span, 6 were in the wrong! Use some common sense. Drive as if no

one has a radio, expect the unexpected. And stay on your own side of the road!

EATING DUST

With this summer's beautiful weather has come the impossible task of keeping the dust down. Even the traditionally wet areas of northern Vancouver Island like Port McNeill have been facing logging shut downs because of the dryness of the woods. Tofino, without water? Who'd a thunk?



The situation pictured on the left was the result of a pickup passing a loaded logging truck in dust so thick the driver didn't see the bridge rail ahead of him, which literally impaled the pickup. Had there been someone in the passenger seat, we would have had yet another fatality this week.

Let's use some common sense out there! Let the dust settle; use your headlights; give yourself enough space and time to pass safely. If you need to, back off and create some space between yourself and the vehicle in front of you. Remember that WorkSafe regulations require you don't pass a loaded vehicle on an industrial road until the loaded gives you a signal that it's safe to pass.

We've had a couple of Hazard Alerts this week about dust, travelling in dust etc. I've also had many calls complaining about the lack of dust control on some roads. We all need to be patient. There's no way any company can keep the dust down everywhere under these conditions, and most of them are trying hard to do so. Environment Canada's long range forecast calls for dryer than normal & warmer than normal conditions right through the end of October, so please take appropriate precautions. To get the Hazard Alerts, go to www.bcforestsafe.org

BACK TO SCHOOL – BUSES & KIDS

Just a reminder to everybody – school starts Tuesday Sept 5 – watch for the school buses and school zone speeds. I've also heard about kids jumping in front of trucks on 'dares'. If you see that, I'd like to hear about it so we can address it with the school administrators.

ROAD USER AGREEMENTS & MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Road User Agreements are becoming a common way of doing business in these days of multiple industries and multiple forest companies sharing resource roads. In early August the Ministry of Forests came out with a template Road User Agreement & Cost Sharing

mechanism, as well as basic road maintenance standards that can be used as part of the agreement. In a letter to Licensees Deputy Minister Doug Konkin states, “a commitment by the parties to [road] surface maintenance standards and contribution of cost will make forest roads safer”. We’re all for that!

In the introduction document the Ministry of Forests credits Forestry TruckSafe with helping identify the maintenance standards needed. So thanks to the guys who participated in our Roads & Maintenance working group after last year’s Summits. Your work and participation has paid off!

INDUSTRY DEVELOPED STEEP SLOPE HAULING PROCEDURES

The steep slope hauling working group is anticipating having a draft for hauling procedures, risk management and driver training needs ready by the end of September. For those interested in the process so far, you can see the minutes of the meetings on our Forestry TruckSafe website, www.bcforestsafe.org

FIRST NATIONS AND ROADS SUMMIT

Forestry TruckSafe , along with the RoadHealth coalition, will be organizing a Summit on First Nations and Road Safety this coming October, to be held in Prince George. The Summit’s goal is to address the disproportionately high injury and fatality rates due to motor vehicle crashes among First Nations people. Motor vehicle crashes are the highest cause of unintentional death among First Nations, particularly among children and young people. As well, motor vehicle crashes are a major contributor to the relatively poor health status and lower life expectancies experienced by Aboriginal people in BC. There are a number of factors that contribute to the higher-than-average crash and fatality rates among First Nations people throughout BC, including

- Distance from care facilities and urban centres
- Off-road vehicle use (ATV’s & snowmobiles)
- Youth inexperience
- Alcohol use
- Isolation
- Road maintenance, particularly for communities located on resource roads

The First Nations & Roads Summit will bring together First Nations leadership and community members, health care personnel, and other agencies, such as the BC Ambulance Service, ICBC, the RCMP, Forestry TruckSafe, Ministry of Forests & Range, Ministry of Transportation and Highways, WorkSafe BC, and others, in an effort to get everyone to the same table, and begin development of strategies to reduce the risk and occurrence of motor vehicle crashes for First Nations people in the region. A special focus will be on those communities located on resource roads throughout the north, where logging trucks have now been joined by thousands of oil & gas vehicles, and mining ore trucks. Dates are Oct 12 and 13, location to be confirmed. For further information, or to get involved, please contact MaryAnne Arcand, at 250 612 2267.

We're also considering a First Nations and Forestry Roundtable to be held concurrent to the Roads Summit, to provide safety information to First Nations with timber harvesting agreements with the Ministry of Forests.

FIRST ROADHEALTH NEWSLETTER TO BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK

RoadHealth, a coalition of agencies in north and central BC, is issuing its first newsletter next week. In it are articles about Wildlife collisions, Electronic Stability Control, the First Nations & Roads Summit, and the community projects that got funded by RoadHealth grants, including getting power to the truck wash in Terrace, proposed by the Northwest Loggers Association. It'll be available electronically at www.roadhealth.ca

RUMBLINGS GOING TO WEEKLY ISSUES FOR FALL AND WINTER

There's so much going on in the industry these days that we've decided to issue Rumbblings every week, at least for the fall and winter months, in order to keep everyone posted on issues, hazards, safety updates, etc. So there's more opportunity for you to send in your comments or opinions for the section "Your Voice". Let's make Rumbblings a key communication tool that can be easily accessed (make copies for your co-workers, etc) so we can all stay current and involved. Special thanks to the guys who are putting a bucket at the pullout on the 2200 Rd so there's a way for everybody on that road to get a copy. That's good thinking, and a simple solution.

YOUR VOICE Many thanks to all the folks who have called with concerns and issues the past couple of weeks. I think the following letter expresses the frustration of a lot of us!

" I can forgive the truckers for missing the odd km, has long as they call 80-90% their kms and travel at a safe speed there won't be any issues on our roads. It's the pickups and log trucks who think nothing of calling 30% or less of their kms that really upset me. Generally these same road users are the same drivers who think it's OK to drive at 90km/hr.

It's the worst of both worlds , not calling and speeding. I believe 90% of the truckers and pickups respect and care about other road users out there, but there is also a small minority of trucks who don't care about everyone getting home safely. Until we get these 10% to change their attitudes and respect everyone's right to get home safely, we will continue to have deaths on our logging roads. I do believe we are turning the corner, other truckers are starting to speak up and not tolerating the 10% minority."

UPCOMING EVENTS- all the safety meetings are open to all area truckers; MoFR, MOT, RCMP, CVES, BCTS and WorkSafe staff in those areas are also invited. For meeting details, contact MaryAnne at 250 562 8615 or arcand@betrucksafe.org or Wayne Lintott, General Manager of the Interior Logging Association at 250 503 2199 (Kamloops, Kelowna,

Cranbrook & Golden meetings) wayne@interiorlogging.org

- Sept 22 – Truckers’ Safety Meeting, **Vavenby** with Canfor and area operators
- Sept 25 – Truckers’ Safety Meeting, **Revelstoke** with Downie Timber and area operators
- Sept 26 – Truckers’ Safety Meeting, **Kamloops**, with ILA and WPTA, all area truckers invited
- Sept 27 – Truckers’ Safety Meeting, **Kelowna**, with ILA, all area truckers invited
- Oct 12 & 13 **First Nations & Roads Summit, Prince George**; all interested parties are invited – licensees, trucker groups, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Highways, Ministry of Energy & Mines, BC Timber Sales
- Oct 18 - Truckers’ Safety Meeting, **Cranbrook**, with ILA and West Kootenay Trucking – all invited
- Oct 19 – Truckers’ Safety Meeting, **Golden**, with ILA and Golden Truckers Assoc – all invited
- Oct 26-27 Action North conference on Substance Abuse, Prince George
www.actionnorth.net

If you’re interested in booking MaryAnne for a pre-winter hauling safety session, just call! We’re booking into November now, so call soon.

GOOD GUYS SPOTTED! (this will be a new feature of Rumbings – if there’s a trucker you know that’s doing it right, we’d like to hear about it, and commend that person. **It’s time to acknowledge the Good Guys!**)

On the Finlay FSR – **GD Price Enterprises #705** – was stopped on the side of the road because his air lines had come loose. He had his triangles out at the appropriate distances, and despite the dust, was noticeable and avoidable well in advance. Good Job!

On the Ossilinka/Finlay – **Lomak Bulk Haulers** – the ore truckers have been commended by the log truck drivers as being “very considerate”, real “gentlemen” – something we don’t hear often enough. Good Job! To the drivers, and their supervisors, Richard, Al and Dale!

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