



Transportation

TimberWest contractors pilot fatigue-monitoring technology

Thanks to the participation of TimberWest contractors and their drivers, a fatigue technology research pilot was started in April 2018, with an end goal of informing industry about solutions to improve safety in log hauling operations.

The project will bring together Wolf Lake Logging Ltd., CoastFibre, TimberWest, FPIInnovations and the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) to help test the latest world-leading technological innovations that support improved safety outcomes with regards to fatigue.

Seeing Machines



A Seeing Machines unit is installed in a Vancouver Island log truck.

The “Seeing Machines Fatigue Project”, will run for 60 days and started when TimberWest – as part of its commitment to seek out best

practices and innovation – became aware of the technology being implemented in New Zealand. At the same time, back in Canada, FPIInnovations and the BCFSC had been conducting research into monitoring and assessing log truck driver fatigue, while the forest industry safety working group, Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group (TAG), had been studying fatigue, the factors that impact fatigue, and the best practices for managing fatigue.

Worker fatigue is a safety risk factor within many industries including forestry, particularly for workers that have long shifts or those working night shifts. Among other safety considerations, increased fatigue levels may lead to micro sleeps and momentary or extended lapses in concentration that can put workers at increased risk of incidents, especially when operating motor vehicles, or heavy equipment.

Several technologies continue to be developed to identify and measure fatigue, and provide fatigue mitigation measures. One technology, Seeing Machines, was identified in FPIInnovations’ research as one of the top three onboard technologies based on six criteria: market readiness, purchase cost, features, data transfer and support, human machine interface, and functionality. Seeing Machines mitigates risk by detecting both fatigue and distraction events and providing real-time, in-cab behaviour intervention, by using face and eye tracking software technologies.

Readibands

In addition to testing the Seeing Machine units, the Wolf Lake Logging and Coast Fibre drivers will also wear Fatigue Science Readibands, a wristband technology that uses bio-mathematical fatigue modelling, to predict fatigue.

Trish Kohorst, BCFSC transportation safety manager and project lead said recent surveys conducted by TAG of 4,000 log truck drivers in BC (in 2015 and 2016) identified fatigue as one of the top three concerns; the other two being road conditions/maintenance (no. 1) and speed (no. 2). As a result of these findings, industry committed to supporting the successful implementation of a driver fatigue management program that includes creating awareness and understanding of the significance of driver fatigue; the implementation of appropriate measures to help prevent potential fatigue related incidents; and, to improve driver health and wellness.

The opportunity to implement this project is largely due to the participants. “A big thank you to Wolf Lake Logging and CoastFibre and their drivers for volunteering to be part of this safety project. Thanks to their participation we will be able to help support better safety outcomes for all log haulers,” said Trish. “And thanks to TimberWest’s continued commitment to safety and leadership in seeking out technological innovation.”

A project wrap-up presentation will be provided following completion of the project. “The user experience and feedback on both technologies will be invaluable in determining the effectiveness and ease of use of the technologies,” said Trish.

To learn more about the technologies, see <https://www.seeingmachines.com/> and <https://www.fatiguescience.com/>. For further information on this project, please contact Trish Kohorst at transport@bcforestsafesafe.org or call toll-free 1-877-741-1060. 🌱

Ongoing opportunities for professional development of log truck drivers

Each year, as part of industry’s ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for professional development of log truck drivers, 18 seminars will have taken place by the end of the first week in June. These diverse seminars focus on topics that increase driver knowledge and help support informed choices for improved safety, health and wellness.

The seminars were hosted by various licensees and delivered by subject matter experts, on topics as diverse as brain science and keeping safe (Gary Anaka) <http://www.braincoach.ca/>; fatigue science and increasing health and wellness through fatigue management <https://www.fatiguescience.com/>; distracted driving (Drop It and Drive) <http://diad.tirf.ca/>; and, anatomy of a rollover, and your greatest risk (Advantage Fleet Services) <http://advantagefleetservices.com/>.

The seminars were hosted by West Fraser in 100 Mile House and Fraser Lake; Canfor in Vavenby, Mackenzie, Vanderhoof, Houston, Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Cranbrook and Prince George; Weyerhaeuser in Princeton; Cariboo Chilcotin Truckers Compliance Committee in Williams Lake; Tolko in Quesnel and Merritt; Babine Forest Products in Burns Lake; and Conifex in Mackenzie.

The 2018 Log Hauling Survey was distributed at all sessions providing drivers with the opportunity to respond to questions to help inform future industry initiatives and resources that further support safe log hauling. 🌱

LTTAC health and wellness initiative for log truck drivers

The Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee (LTTAC) is pleased to announce they will be working with Total Physiotherapy based out of Smithers, to create resources that will support log haulers in reducing ergonomic injuries.

The initial step, compiling a Physical Demands Analysis, was completed in late March, thanks to the support of Groot Bros., of Houston, and Sky View Contracting, of Smithers, who allowed Total Physiotherapy to travel with drivers through the complete log hauling cycle to ensure they had an accurate understanding of the physical demands of log hauling including load securement, chaining

WorkSafeBC receives update on transportation safety initiatives

At the request of WorkSafeBC for an update on industry safety initiatives related to transportation safety, Trish Kohorst, BC Forest Safety Council Transportation Safety Manager, recently presented to the WorkSafeBC's forest industry advisory group which includes prevention, occupational safety, and industry and labour services representatives.

Trish provided an update on the professional log truck driver competency program, fatigue research and resources, as well as the key projects that the industry safety working groups, Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group (TAG), the Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee (LTTAC), Bulk Haulers Injury Elimination Taskforce (BHIET) and the Marine Forest Safety Advisory Group (MFSAG) are working on.

Trish explained the merits of a competency based program where the knowledge, attributes and skills are evaluated to meet the criteria – no pass or fail; rather an industry developed program that identifies what is needed for a professional log truck driver to safely perform his/her duties.

She said that the program had been initiated by LTTAC (whose membership includes log hauling contractors from across the Province, RCMP, CVSE, WorkSafeBC, FPIInnovations, and ICBC) and further developed with contributions from the subject matter expert group, supported by TAG. So far since 2016/2017, 17 new log truck drivers were trained and 160 drivers have been assessed. Vancouver Island University has also developed curriculum, based on the program's units of competence. In 2018, learning resources are planned for development, but are dependent on securing additional funding. 🌲

Pre-trip inspections assist in preventing serious incidents and provide opportunity for early recognition of unsafe conditions

A new 'Check Your Nuts' information campaign is intended to help remind all drivers about the importance of pre-trip inspections for both safety, operational performance and lower long-term maintenance costs.



Resources will include posters and stickers. The materials will be completed in the next few weeks and accessible via the resource section on the BC Forest Safety Council website: <http://www.bcforestsafecouncil.org/node/2485> as well as on the Resource Order form: http://www.bcforestsafecouncil.org/files/ps_injuryPreventionResourceOrderForm.pdf 🌲

Fatal collision did not involve two logging trucks

When first reports came out, it was claimed that two logging trucks had been involved in a fatal collision on Highway 97 at the end of March. The two trucks involved were in fact a lumber truck and a chip truck. We are sharing that information here because social media and others perpetuated the error and while the source was corrected, the bad info was already out there and being shared. Our thoughts and condolences are with all those affected by the incident. 🌲



Fatal truck collision closes highway

March 26, 2018

One person was killed Monday morning when two commercial trucks collided on Highway 97 near the Dunkley Lumber sawmill, Quesnel RCMP said.

up and the long hours spent behind the wheel in the log hauling environment.

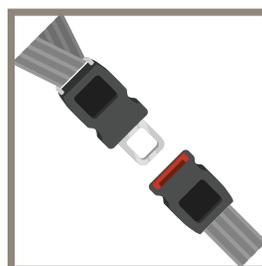
The objective is to develop resources that will help drivers, managers and supervisors better prevent injuries by identifying potential injuries earlier and more effectively managing common injuries, as well as adopting actions to help minimize the risk of injuries.

Resources will include exercises specifically tailored to improve strength and fitness to work, showing workers good body positioning, techniques and stretches to minimize the likelihood of strains and other injuries.

The project is expected to continue through 2019 with the first resources becoming available as early as November of 2018. Forest Safety News will update with links as soon as they are available. 🌲

Buckle up!

The stats just keep confirming the fact that safety belts do save lives. A safety belt could save your life too. Please buckle up and makes sure your loved ones buckle up! Wear your seat belt every time you climb into a piece of equipment, a passenger vehicle, a taxi, crummy or log truck. 🌲



Update on the US experience with ELDs

As Canada's deadline in 2019 for ELDs grows closer, we can learn from some of the experiences south of the border where ELDs have been required for several months already. One of the unintended consequences is that some US commercial drivers are finding there is no space at truck stops; while others are being forced to pull over in areas that are not safe to meet service hour restrictions. See <https://www.trucknews.com/features/little-by-little/> 🌲