Heavy rains increase risk for work and travel

Location: All of BC

Date: September 17, 2019

This month has seen an unusually high amount of rainfall in many regions of BC, and especially on the coast. As a result, ground conditions are quickly approaching the saturation point – if not there already in specific locations and work sites.

For forestry workers and supervisors, ensure that ground, road and weather conditions are included in all daily hazard assessments.

Follow all rainfall shutdown procedures and inspect roads that may have been damaged by high rainfall levels. Exercise appropriate caution and base decisions on the safety of you and your crew.

Weather related hazards to consider:

- **HEAVY RAIN** can result in hazardous driving conditions. Watch out for water pooling on roads, muddy and slippery road conditions as well as reduced visibility. Drive appropriately for the conditions and make sure your vehicle is well maintained and equipped to handle the challenging conditions.
• **STRONG WINDS** can cause blowdown causing road blockages and damage to vehicles caught under falling trees. When working on foot, be prepared to evacuate areas if it gets too windy. Get out before the trees start to come down.

• **LANDSLIDES** can occur when heavy rains saturate and weaken soils. Measure the rainfall at your worksite and follow your rainfall shutdown procedures to help manage this hazard.

• **SNOW** is already falling in higher elevation areas of the province and serves as a good reminder that many parts of BC require winter tires from October 1 to March 31. All vehicles need appropriate winter tires, tire chains and other winter supplies. Start planning to ensure you have the appropriate footwear and cold weather gear available when it’s needed.

Resources:

• Drive BC (for current road conditions): [https://www.drivebc.ca](https://www.drivebc.ca)

• BC Ministry of Transportation links and resources: [https://www.tranbc.ca/current-travel-advisories/](https://www.tranbc.ca/current-travel-advisories/)

• Shift into Winter web site: [https://www.tranbc.ca/shift-into-winter/](https://www.tranbc.ca/shift-into-winter/)