



BC **Forest Safety** Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Deep slush “throws” log truck off the road

Location: South Okanagan-Similkameen region

Date of Incident: December 17, 2012



Details of Incident: A loaded log truck was hauling over a pass on a major highway early in the morning. Overnight heavy snowfall had deposited about 10 centimetres of snow on the ground. Temperatures were rising rapidly from -5 to +2 degrees.

The uphill (east) side of the pass was compact snow that had been plowed and sanded. The top of the pass is the boundary between two highway maintenance crews. The downhill (west) side of the pass had not received any recent maintenance.

Near the bottom of the pass the road conditions changed rapidly from snow to deep slush. The driver was travelling well below the posted speed limit as he approached a slight left curve but the deep

slush grabbed his truck and trailer, causing him to lose control of his rig. The truck left the highway dumping his load and taking out a power pole.

Luckily no one was injured but the truck received substantial damage. The RCMP investigated but no charges were laid. During the investigation several veteran drivers stated that slush is one of the worst road conditions to drive in.

Recommended Corrective Actions:

- Stress with all drivers and especially new or less experienced drivers the dangers associated with driving in slushy conditions
- Review with all drivers the need to drive defensively and to try to anticipate changing conditions and adjust prior to being in a situation
- Stress with all drivers the importance for communicating changes in road conditions or other hazards to adjacent drivers
- Report any concerns about highway maintenance to your supervisor

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