

Trucking Advisory Group
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Letter to the Editor/News Editor

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Logging truck incidents within the province have been on a steady decline, with early statistics showing an approximate 20% decline in high profile incidents on provincial highways in 2014 when compared to 2013. Log hauling has had a reasonably good safety record with number of incidents reported in 2014 for both on and off highways hauling resulting in 130 short term disability, and long term disability as reported to WorkSafeBC. In addition, 2014 had zero fatalities directly related to log hauling which was a vast improvement over the four fatalities experienced in 2013. This means that of the approximately 1.4 million loads of logs hauled in 2014, 99.99% were hauled without a short term disability or long term disability. However, industry also recognizes that more work is needed to further improve the industry safety record given a fair number of incidents being documented on both resource roads and provincial highways. Those that occur within areas that have potential for public interaction are of particular concern. In looking at the most recent serious incidents in 2013 and 2014 that occurred on provincial highways, log truck rollovers account for approximately 40-50% of overall recorded log hauling incidents.

One of the many actions taken by industry to address log hauling safety was the establishment of the Trucking Advisory Group (TAG). TAG was established in 2014 in response to a cluster of log trucking incidents that occurred in the late summer/fall 2013. TAG members include senior representatives from Canfor, Gorman Bros., Interfor, Tolko, West Fraser, BC Timber Sales, LoBar Log Transport, the Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee and representatives from the Truck Loggers Association, Interior Loggers Association, and the BC Forest Safety Council.

In order to increase awareness around log hauling safety and specifically address rollovers, TAG initiated a total of 16 Anatomy of a Rollover sessions in 2014 with over 600 attendees. In 2015 a further 18 sessions are being offered over the next two months across the province in May and June. It is expected that over 1000 log truck drivers, log loadermen and supervisors will attend.

Through the actions of the TAG and other safety related initiatives, industry is committed to continue to work at ensuring every load of logs is delivered efficiently and safely.

Session dates and locations can be located at www.bcforestsafe.org/rollover.

Thank you for your time.

