



RUMBLINGS

FOR SAFE ROADS, LOADS AND DRIVERS — ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA
FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE



BC **Forest Safety** Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

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Safety in Forestry Transportation TruckSafe Rumbings 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.

The loose stuff inside your vehicle can kill you!

A few weeks ago the RCMP investigated a motor vehicle crash in which a woman was killed, and came to the conclusion that she had not died from injuries sustained in the crash itself, but from head injuries she received from her laptop computer, which had been lying loose on the passenger seat beside her.

Loose objects, or unbelted passengers or pets, will fly around the inside of the vehicle at the same speed the vehicle was travelling at impact, and can become deadly. Under WorkSafeBC regulations, there must be no loose objects in the cab of a truck – that goes for pickups and cars as well. That litre of oil behind the seat, wrench, hammer, tie downs, brief case, or your thermos or lunchbucket all become deadly objects when they're flying around the inside of your vehicle.



Stevie, a log hauler from Fruitvale, recently told me about his crash, and mentioned the same thing:

“Concrete barriers kept the truck from going over the bank. (sliding on the door 150 feet) The windshield popped out on impact so I got a face full of dirt and got the sh#! kicked out of me with all the loose tools etc. in the cab”.

Even though you may be belted in, and not getting thrown about the cab yourself, you may be pummelled, seriously injured or even killed by your own stuff. Tie it down!

“Slow Down/Move Over” law takes effect in B.C. on June 1st

Beginning June 1, drivers in B.C. will be required to slow down and move over when passing parked emergency vehicles that have their lights flashing. New regulations under the Motor Vehicle Act mean motorists must slow to 70 km/h on highways where the speed limit is 80 km/h or higher - and to 40 km/h where the limit is below 80 km/h - when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle that has its lights flashing.

Drivers travelling in a lane adjacent to a stopped emergency vehicle must also move into another lane to pass, if it is safe to do so. This will give emergency workers room to do their jobs safely.

Every year emergency workers are struck and injured or killed by passing vehicles that don't slow down or move over for emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road. If you see flashing lights or hear sirens while you're

driving, pull over and stop until they clear, especially in intersections. If you see them ahead on the side of the road, slow down, and move over to give them lots of room. The fine for failing to do so will start at \$173 and include 3 points on your driver's licence. But the fine and points are minimal compared to the consequences of hitting an emergency worker or flag person. They have the right to a safe workplace too!

ATCO celebrates 50th Anniversary

Two weeks ago Atco Wood Products held a spring startup safety day for its harvesting operations employees, contractors and truckers. We were pleased to be able to participate, making a presentation about transportation safety. CEO Scott Weatherford spoke about the current tight economic situation, but also his positive view of the future, not only for Atco but for the entire forest industry. He believes that safety is good business practice, and shows up on the bottom line. Scott spoke about the family's commitment to its employees, its community and its industry, and the steps they're taking to remain viable, this year and for years to come. Scott's partner, Rebecca, is the third generation of the Nelson family to own and operate ATCO.

Founded as ATCO Lumber in 1959 by Atle Nelson Sr, a pioneer in the wood industry, the company grew steadily through the last half of the 20th century. Through the years, the Nelson family has been the continuous owner/operators of the company with Atle's six sons having been an integral part of the company in one way or another.

Beginning with a sawmill purchased in 1959 in Fruitvale, ATCO Lumber continually expanded its operations and product lines. ATCO built a veneer plant in Fruitvale in 1973 and add another sawmill in Park Siding. Through acquisitions, ATCO also steadily increased both its private land holdings and provincial forest license area. In later years, both sawmill operations were closed and the focus was directed on strengthening its already industry-leading softwood veneer product line, and superior reputation for forestry management and sustainability. ATCO Wood Products is one of the largest forestry management companies in the West Kootenays, with licenses and contracts to sustainably manage approximately 315,000 acres (127,000 hectares).

In 2007, the third generation of the Nelson family took ownership of the company, changing the name to ATCO Wood Products, and setting the company on course for another successful 50 years. Congratulations to ATCO Wood Products and its employees!



Pictured right: Rebecca and Scott Weatherford cut the ATCO 50th Anniversary Cake. A public celebration is planned in Fruitvale July 11

The Monster We Work With

We're getting a lot of questions these days about drugs and alcohol in the workplace, and the merits and pitfalls of drug testing. WorkSafeBC is also exploring the development of drug and alcohol policies.

The Construction Association made headlines last summer with its policy decision to start testing. But there are all kinds of pitfalls – human rights, employer's duty to accommodate and so on. When does substance use become a problem in the workplace? So many questions, so few answers.

Visions: BC's Mental Health and Addictions Journal is a magazine/ezine that looks at those kinds of issues, and their most recent publication focuses on the workplace. Topics covered include Human Rights and Employer Responsibilities, Returning to Work, Economic Impacts, and much more. You'll even find an article we

contributed, called "The Monster We Work With". You can view the magazine online at <http://heretohelp.bc.ca/publications/visions/workplaces> for helpful articles and information.

Another great source of information, and training for Supervisors, is www.workdrugfreebc.com, the website of the BC Council on Substance Abuse, whose focus is exclusively on substance abuse in the workplace.

TRUCK WEST focuses on Sharing the Road with Logging Trucks

May's issue of Trucks West focused on logging trucks and issues around resource roads, non-industrial road users, road conditions and more. We've had positive feedback from several truckers on the articles, so thanks to Truck West editor Jan Westell for taking the time to listen, and for getting it right. We'll be posting pdf's of the article on the Forestry TruckSafe section of the Forest Safety Council website, www.bcforestsafe.org. Click on Forestry TruckSafe, and then the Safe Driving Information link on the right hand side of the screen.

Forestry TruckSafe "On the Road Again"

Over the next couple of weeks we'll be on the road again, speaking at spring startup safety meetings and conferences, including Campbell River (May 21), Princeton (May 26) and Port Alberni (May 23-31). If you'd like to meet with MaryAnne while she's already in your area or enroute, please give her a call (250)612-2267 or email arcand@bcforestsafe.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 28 – 31 Community Forests Annual Conference & AGM, Port Alberni
- July 4 -5 BC Big Rig Weekend, Chilliwack
- July 18-19 Duncan Antique Truck Show, BC Forest Discovery Centre, Duncan
- July 31-Aug 3 Vancouver Island Truck Show, Saanich
- Sept 19-20 Antique Truck Show, McLean's Mill, Port Alberni
- Sept 23 -24 SHARP Conference, Prince George
- Oct 21 – 22 CrossRoads Road Safety Conference, Prince George

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