



July 2010 ----ISSUE 119

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

It is now summer and that means there are more recreational users on our resource roads. Many people will be taking advantage of the sunny weather to go out camping or fishing with their friends and families. Throughout B.C. there are many beautiful camping sites and recreational areas meant to be enjoyed by all. It is important to remember that when driving to many of these sites you may have to travel on resource roads that are also being used by industrial traffic. All industrially active resource roads will be marked with signs that tell users the radio frequency being used on the road. If you have a 2 way radio, it is important to use the correct frequency and correctly call your location and direction. If you do not have a 2-way radio and the road you want to travel on is active, we suggest that you follow behind another vehicle equipped with a radio.

For industrial traffic, this is a time of year when a road that once was being used exclusively for work, now becomes an obvious public road. Small vehicles and RV's with no radios become a common sight traveling to and from camping sites and hiking trails. These road users may be more or less of a concern depending on the resource road you are working on. It is a good idea to take note of any recreational sites along your driving path. Knowing where recreational areas are and recognizing the reality of extra traffic in those areas can help to keep you and everyone else on the road safe.

Chuck Carter

Director, Transportation Safety

SAFETY HAZARD FOCUS:

Resource roads include many different types of roads built to various standards of construction and maintenance depending on the level and type of activity and the time of year. Most forest roads in the province are maintained by forest companies. Their obligation to maintain the road only occurs however when the road is being used for industrial activity. If industrial activities are curtailed or suspended, maintenance activities are usually also suspended. Without regular maintenance, traveling on these roads can be hazardous even in good weather conditions, and recreational users need to be aware of what to expect. Road surfaces can be very rough with large potholes. Corners may be overgrown causing line of sight issues and sometimes even being difficult for larger vehicles to get through. Not all roads are suitable for larger vehicles or RV's; some are only passable by vehicles designed for off road use. Always drive with caution, share the road with other users, and have a safe summer.

PLACES TO GO!

Below is a link that may give you some ideas as to what is available to the outdoor enthusiast in B.C. If you are looking for a new place to go this summer, consider taking a look at the "find a site or trail" section of the Recreation Sites and Trails website. Take a look at the safety information about resource road use available and be cautious when driving around this summer. Expect the unexpected and make sure everyone gets home safely this summer.

Links:

Recreation Sites and Trails- <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/>

STAY ALERT ON RESOURCE ROADS EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

10 ACTIONS THAT WILL HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE ON RESOURCE ROADS

- Be ready to take evasive action
- Keep headlights and taillights on at all times
- Always wear a seatbelt
- Do not stop in the middle of the road for any reason
- Give logging trucks and other industrial traffic the right of way
- Read and obey all posted signs
- Be aware that resource roads and bridges are not always maintained
- Always drive according to the road conditions
- Never pass a vehicle unless signalled to do so
- Always drive on the right hand side of the road

AVOID RISKS AND ALWAYS DRIVE SAFELY

**Transportation
Safety Program**



BC Forest Safety Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

YOUR VOICE:

We would really like to hear from you, the road user, on what road safety issues you see and how they can best be addressed. Direct your e-mail suggestions, comments or upcoming event to carter@bcforestsafe.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gold-pan City Car Show and Shine, Quesnel B.C. - August 29th, 2010

Words to *live* by;

“Working safely may get old, but so do those who practice it.”