



Rumblings



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Safety in Forestry Transportation

TruckSafe Rumblings 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.

Excerpt from CILA newsletter Sept 16

'Take lead on safety', industry told Industry must lead the charge in reducing forest industry accidents and deaths, Jim Shepherd, CEO of Canfor and Chair of the B.C. Forest Safety Council told delegates at a COFI meeting in Prince George this week.

Shepherd, and Tanner Elton, CEO of the Council, outlined the Council's priorities

- Achieving a cultural change that makes worker safety an over-riding priority;
- A safety-aware legal regime;
- Growing confident and competent workers;
- Insisting on safety-qualified companies.

Both said the industry's death and serious injury rates are still unacceptably high – and much higher than in other sectors. They pointed out that there have been 23 deaths in the B.C. forest industry so far this year.

by Roy Nagel

Editor's Note : the tragic part is, that in the very same week that Jim Shepherd issued his challenge to COFI CEO's, 4 more deaths occurred in the industry- in Prince George, in the Fraser Valley, in the Peace and on Vancouver Island. And as we listened to log truck widow Shannon Payne of Burns Lake share about the impact on her life, family and community of the loss of her husband Craig, 4 more women and their children are without husbands and fathers. The death toll is 27 as of today.

“Unsafe is unacceptable” is more than a slogan. Unsafe practices cost people their lives. Speed does kill. So does carelessness, and taking shortcuts. Be part of the solution, not the problem. There are only 5 weeks remaining until Summit II, October 27 & 28. Let's work on real solutions, and start making changes not just in what we say, but in how we think about safety, and what we do about it!

WORKSAFE BC rolls out its provincial TruckSafe strategy

On Tuesday September 20, Worksafe BC (WCB) rolled out its provincial TruckSafe strategy, which is the “umbrella” for several initiatives, including our own Forestry TruckSafe. The provincial strategy will cover all commercial trucking in BC, and is based on the principles of engineering, education, and enforcement, as well as inter-agency collaboration. The BC Forest Safety Council's Keith Rush spoke at the event, talking about the Articulated Rock Truck Program which he was involved with, but also highlighting the activities and commitment of the Forest Safety Council to safety in the forestry sector.

Shannon Payne, widow of the late Craig Payne, a Burns Lake log hauler who was killed in a crash in 2003, told the crowd about the pain and loss her family and community suffered as a result of Craig's death. The amount of courage it took to stand in front of a crowd of strangers and share her story is only exceeded by her commitment to do everything she can to ensure other forestry wives don't have to share her experience.

For further details on the Worksafe BC TruckSafe strategy, please visit their website at <http://www.worksafebc.bc.ca>

SUMMIT II Update- Summit II is being held Oct 27 & 28 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. The Pan Pacific has given us a very good room rate; just make sure you tell them you're with the TruckSafe Summit.

Also, you are very welcome to attend, even if you were not part of Summit I in June. There is no registration fee. Call MaryAnne Arcand at 250 612 7086 for information on how to register for this next important step in forest safety.

Trucksafe Trivia: yesterday, southbound on Hwy 97 from Cache Creek to Prince George: 70 log trucks, 54 chip trucks, 91 lumber trucks (super B) 2 police cars, 0 CSVE
All other trucks total 101

The 452 kms of distance from Cache Creek to PG means you're meeting a forestry-related hauler every 2 kms. At 100 kms per hour, that's 1 every 1.6 seconds! And that was just southbound. Be careful out there!

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