



Rumblings



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December 19, 2005

Issue #14

*Distributed biweekly across the entire BC Forest Sector

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.

FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE ACTION PLAN RELEASED

The long-awaited Action Plan was released Friday, December 17, at the end of a week full of other "actions" by government and yet another death.

The Forestry TruckSafe Action Plan has already been started! While we didn't get the actual paper report out until this past Friday, work has been going on behind the scenes and many of the original action items from the June and October Summits have been either accomplished or gotten well underway. To see our progress to date, check out the Forestry TruckSafe website and click on TruckSafe Action Plan. www.bcforestsafe.org

The Action Plan is laid out in several parts. You can imagine the challenge of taking all the ideas and input from more than 100 people over 6 months and putting it into a single document – so it's broken down into a Background piece, 8 Critical Findings, and then the larger action pieces for each of the group headings: Roads & Maintenance, Vehicles & Technology, Education & Communication, Enforcement & Compliance, and Responsibility & Accountability.

Under each of those headings are the "big picture" actions, which will be undertaken either by the BC Forest Safety Council, or our partner agencies, such as ICBC, WorkSafeBC, Ministry of Forests and Range, RCMP, CVSE, etc. The smaller "doables" are laid out in a series of "action tables", which will be distributed among the Summit participants first, to ensure accuracy and viability, then more broadly, as we get the legs underneath these items, to determine who is doing what by when.

It's time for us to turn the corner on our focus from identifying problems and issues to identifying solutions and partnerships, looking at the positive things already being done by industry and government, and supporting those efforts with solid arrangements for cooperation, communication and accountability.

ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Shared Responsibility must become a reality;
- Healthy and safe workers and communities require a healthy industry;
- The laws and regulations governing the forest sector need to be reviewed for their potential impacts on safety;
- The Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy must be reviewed to take into account the safety impact of the infestation;
- The Safety of drivers, trucks and roads requires collaboration and alliances with others; and
- The Forest Sector needs a Workforce Development Strategy.

ROADS AND MAINTENANCE

- A new Resource Roads Act for BC;
- A First Nations Resource Road Review;
- A Safety Hotline to identify areas of critical and immediate concern;
- Maintain a compendium of Good Practices;
- Finalize and distribute the top 10 Rules of the Road;
- Creation of Resource Road Maintenance Standards;
- Creation of immediate Road Maintenance Cost Sharing Mechanism; and,
- Adopt vehicle identification plates for trucks on resource roads.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

- Issues of Jurisdiction need to be sorted out immediately; and
- Communication needs to be improved.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Graduated licensing for truck drivers;
- Driver qualification;
- Hours of work service regulations; and,
- Sharing the road – public and industry education.

VEHICLES AND TECHNOLOGY

- Regular inspections of “light vehicles” such as pick-ups and service trucks must be made mandatory;
- Scheduled replacement of equipment such as stake cables should be made mandatory; and,
- Existing and new technologies must be tested and implemented to improve tracking, monitoring and safety for forestry vehicles.

To see the full Forestry TruckSafe Action Plan, go to www.bcforestsafesafe.org

TruckSafe Trivia: the Forest Practices Board’s resource roads report (December 7/05) says that BC has approximately 47,000 km of public highways, and more than 400,000 kms of resource roads, with an additional 30-40,000 kms to be added per year for the next 10 years.

From all of us at Forestry TruckSafe, Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season! Let’s work together to make sure 2006 is safe and prosperous for us all!

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumbblings, please forward this email along. Signing up is easy. [Just click here and you will be taken to our new sign up page](#) . If you know someone who’d be interested but doesn’t have email, forward their fax number to us at arcand@bctrucksafe.org

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