



# Rumblings



A Publication of Forestry TruckSafe ~ A BC Forest Safety Council Initiative  
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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.**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF CHANGE....**

We're already a week into 2007 and into the peak of the winter log hauling season in most areas. All of us at the BC Forest Safety Council, and especially here at Forestry TruckSafe, wish you each a happy, safe and profitable 2007.

This year is going to be the year where a lot of the proposed changes to forest industry transportation start to be implemented. Yes, there will be changes in regulations and policy coming at us from all directions. Yes, there will be more paperwork. And, yes, there will be some cost attached to it all.

From the Forestry TruckSafe side, we can't change any of that. What we can and will do, as much as possible, is provide up to date, accurate and simplified information, and bring you the help, tools and training you're going to need as truckers and trucking contractors to get through it all as painlessly as possible.

So here's an update of what we're expecting to see from the regulatory bodies and industry this year. Some of it has been passed into law or regulation and is going into the implementation stage, and some is yet proposed but expected to proceed.

Please take the time to make yourselves familiar with it all- it may mean the difference between getting a fine or not!

### **FROM CVSE**

- **New Hours of Service now coming in March:** the Order in Council has now been passed, and the new Hours of Service have been made law. They will come into effect in March. The Loggers Exemption has been passed as well, but is restricted to Log Hauling Only. All log haulers, regardless of how close to home they are hauling, will be required to keep a log book.

The long awaited special edition of Rumbings explaining the Hours of Service in practical detail and application will be out next week on January 19.

Forestry TruckSafe along with its partners, will be developing a log book for log hauling that will cover off all CVSE requirements, all future WorkSafeBC requirements, the pretrip and everything onto 1 page, to eliminate drivers having to do 3 or 4 different log books. This will be ready for distribution by the end of January, and then MaryAnne Arcand will be conducting FREE workshops throughout the spring on how to fill them out properly and stay compliant.

- **New permitting procedures – weigh scales will no longer be issuing permits:**

A Provincial Permit Centre has been opened in Dawson Creek According to the CVSE press release, Dawson Creek was chosen as the location because the Northern Region has the highest permit issuing volume in BC, 44% of the provincial volume. On average 136,000 permits per year are issued in BC.

Phase I of the permit system will see all permits in the northern region be issued from Dawson Creek, by the use of a 1-800 line system. In late spring 2007, Southern Interior permits will be issued from there as well, and by fall this year, the whole province, either via the Internet or the 1 800 line.

The Permit Centre's hours are from 6am to 10pm 7 days per week, including most Statutory Holidays. The Permit Centre's number is 1 800 559 9688.

After hours permits are still available by calling 1 800 559 9688

- **Increased Inspections:** as Weigh Scale staff are freed up from issuing permits (which has taken an estimated 40% of their time), they will be doing an increased number of Level I and Level II inspections. So be prepared!
- **Carrying Chains:** just a reminder that all commercial transports operating in BC must carry chains right through til April 30, whether you are using them or not.

## **FROM WORKSAFEBC**

**1) Regulation Review:** WorkSafe is reviewing Section 26, the Forestry Section, as well as other pieces of its Act, during this winter and spring. You can go to to see the proposed changes. You have until February 28, 2007 to submit your comments, objections, suggestions, etc. There will be a series of public hearings coming in May, to get public input, after which changes may be made. The proposed changes are expected to become law in the fall of 2007. To see the proposed changes, go to <http://www2.worksafebc.com/forms/regrev/061106/update061106.htm> or download them from the Forestry TruckSafe website, at [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org)

- **Bullboards:** there are still questions coming from truckers regarding bullboards. As of May 2006, all logging truck bullboards must carry a manufacturer's or engineer's stamp, or a letter from the manufacturer or an engineer must be carried in the truck, guaranteeing that the bullboard meets current WorkSafe specifications. If you have a home built bullboard, there are a few engineers around that will certify them for you, if they meet the criteria, and for a fee. Some manufacturers, such as Arctic and Peerless, have told truckers that if they built it, and it hasn't been modified, they'll certify what they've built. Bottom line is, they do need to be certified, either by stamp or by letter, to comply.
- Historically the trucking side of the forest industry has been among the top 3 most dangerous jobs in forestry – now it's #1. So expect to see an increase in compliance inspections and focus from WorkSafe on the trucking side of things this year

### **FROM MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND RANGE**

Road use, responsibilities and jurisdiction continue to be on MOFR's radar. There is a lot of pressure on them, particularly from WorkSafe, to sort out who has responsibility where when it comes to the province's forestry roads. Expect to see-

- Increased enforcement by MoFR Compliance and Enforcement personnel, including speeding and radio violations.
- The encouragement of Road Use Agreements, particularly through BCTS
- Some clarification of roles and responsibilities for Permit Holders, Road Users, Prime Contractors, etc (please!!)
- Consultation on the Resource Roads Act, which is expected to become law Spring 2008. This will be a piece of administrative legislation, intended to reduce the discrepancies in how different status roads are handled, and to streamline some of the road administration issues between mining, forestry and oil & gas.

### **FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT- Highways**

MoT is putting millions of dollars of capital (the so-called "beetle money") into upgrading secondary roads to year round status in areas affected by the Mountain Pine Beetle, in order to lengthen the season and thin out the volumes of traffic. Expect to see continued construction of more pullouts, better merge lanes onto highways, better signage where FSR's intersect with highways, and so on.

### **FROM ICBC:**

ICBC will continue to focus on education about seat belt use, proper winter tire use and reducing wildlife crashes. We're likely to see an increase in ICBC rates this year as well.

### **FROM THE RCMP:**

RCMP E Division (BC) will continue to focus on commercial driving as part of its targeted enforcement plans; more RCMP officers will be trained in commercial vehicle interdiction and basic inspections. They'll also be checking log books. The RCMP is looking to increase the number of officers in the northern part of the province, and is continuing with its Integrated Road Safety Units (IRSU's), and dedicated regional Commercial Traffic Safety officers. This all comes as commercial vehicle crashes are on the rise, and members of the public are being killed in interface crashes. Yesterday there was a fatality just south of Prince George, in a crash between a chip truck and pick up. Just before Christmas 2 men died when a pickup tangled with a logging truck just north of Chetwynd. So expect the attention to commercial traffic to increase from the RCMP.

### **FROM THE OIL PATCH AND MINING:**

We're likely to see continued expansion of the oil patch, as they look to the Nechako and Bower Basins. As well, there are 19 new mines in the works in northern BC, which will put thousands more ore trucks on the roads. Expect an increased focus on road use agreements, sharing the road safety media campaigns, and an ever increasing interface between large resource vehicles and the public.

We're also already seeing, and will continue to see, 'poaching' of skilled forestry drivers and equipment operators by those industries. Workers are attracted by the higher wages and longer or steadier work seasons.

The oil & gas industry is also heavily focusing on road and driver safety this year, as it's also their number one killer. They are spending more than half a million dollars on advertising and public awareness. Driver training is also becoming a bigger part of their picture. For more information, visit [www.enform.ca](http://www.enform.ca)

### **FROM THE LOGGING ASSOCIATIONS- ILA, TLA, NWLA AND CILA**

The 4 regional logging associations of the province are teaming up to address the worker shortage in the industry. They have formed a working group, and have hired FERIC to review the current situation and make recommendations for the future, to attract and retain workers in the forest industry of BC. The Canadian Trucking Human Resources Council has published a report which says that trucking as a whole is about to face an unprecedented need for drivers, as the current workforce starts to retire, and the growing economy creates demand for more drivers than ever. Go to [www.cthrc.ca](http://www.cthrc.ca) for more information about this group. The report will be posted on the Forestry TruckSafe website this week.

The logging associations are also working together with government and industry to find ways to stretch out the logging season – stay tuned for more discussions about “stumpage bingo”, the softwood lumber agreement and what that means, the American

housing market, the falling dollar, and all those economic factors that effect how and when you work.

#### **FROM THE FORESTRY CORONER:**

Tom Pawlowski, the Resource Industry Coroner, is examining forest industry deaths, looking for trends, patterns, and any other identifiable factors that may help us address the causation of injuries and fatalities in the industry. Expect to see several Coroner's Reports this year into forest worker deaths, and perhaps even another inquest, such as the Ted Gramlich inquest last fall, which made recommendations to a number of bodies to sort out responsibilities and processes.

#### **FROM THE FOREST SAFETY OMBUDSMAN:**

Roger Harris, the Forest Safety Ombudsman, will be releasing his first report later in January. Expect to hear about the general working conditions in the industry, the need for the development of a skilled workforce, and how stress is affecting safety in the bush.

#### **FROM THE BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL:**

- **SAFE Companies** – Now in full swing, the SAFE Companies initiative will continue to expand, and later in the year, include “micro-companies”, owner/operators and 1 or 2 person outfits. This category of companies will be self-auditing. The process hasn't been finalized yet, so stay tuned. Also, the first SAFE companies which have been certified will be announced this month, and the first rebate of WorkSafe remittances for SAFE certified companies will start this spring. For further information, call Krista Bax at (604)696-3955
- **FALLER Certification** – new faller training, supervisor training, bullbucker training and a chainsaw course are all in the works for 2007. For further information, contact Bill Bolton at 250 218 1677

#### **3) Communication Tools -**

- SAFE Companies Newsletter – to keep you updated on SAFE Companies
- BC Forest Safety Council News – a snapshot of what's happening in the industry around safety, and the latest developments from the Council
- TruckSafe Rumbblings – a bi-weekly source of information, feedback, issue discussions and upcoming events

To subscribe to any of these newsletters, go to [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org) or email Kevin Armstrong [Armstrong@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:Armstrong@bcforestsafe.org)

- **Hazard Alerts** – sent out as they are forwarded to us from various industry partners. To get on the list, email [Armstrong@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:Armstrong@bcforestsafe.org)

## FROM FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE

- **TruckSafe Rumbings** – this year’s Rumbings will try to provide more tools (contact numbers, processes, etc) directly to the industry as they relate to driving – whether hauling logs, chips, lumber, or going to and from work.
- **Hours of Service Workshops** – a series of workshops will be held around the province to help drivers understand the hours of service and log book requirements coming into effect in March. If you’d like a presentation for your drivers, please contact MaryAnne at 250 612 2267. We’ll try to do them on a sub-regional level – so inviting all the drivers in a certain geographic area (starting in Kelowna Saturday Jan 27), in order to get around the province.
- **Multi-Industry Road Use** – we’ll continue to work with all resource industries and the appropriate government bodies to get this sorted out
- **First Nations and Road Safety** – following up on last fall’s First Nations and Road Safety Summit, working with First Nations to get road safety on the larger agenda
- **LoggerHealth** – starting to address driver and forest worker health, including stress, fatigue, aging, substance use, chronic disease etc. Unhealthy equals unsafe.
- **Forest Safety Hotline**- the Hotline will continue to provide a contact point for people who see problems on the roads but don’t know who to call. If you see unsafe conditions, or have concerns, call us at 1 877 324 1212

The Forestry TruckSafe program has added a full time staff person to assist MaryAnne in dealing with the volume of work that needs to be done. Kathleen Meise has moved from the Faller Certification program to become MaryAnne’s full time assistant in the Prince George office. Welcome to the Forestry TruckSafe team, Kathleen!

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## Upcoming Events

- Jan 11 & 12, 2007 – Natural Resource Forum, Prince George
- Jan 18-20, 2007 – Truck Loggers Convention, Vancouver
- Jan 27, 2007 – Hours of Service Workshop, Ramada, Kelowna, 9am
- Jan 31, Feb 1 & 2, 2007 – Western Silviculture Conference, Prince George

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumbings, 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](mailto:arcand@bctrucksafe.org)