



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.

NOT OUT OF THE WOODS – Forest Safety Ombudsman releases his first report

Roger Harris, the Forest Safety Ombudsman, released his first report on Wednesday. In it Roger talks about the current labor situation in the industry, in relation to safety. He says as he traveled the province this fall talking to hundreds of industry workers, he found a need and desire for training and certification to “professionalize” the industry, making it attractive to new workers, and safer for all.

The report calls for certification of truckers and equipment operators, and has drawn a lot of reaction and criticism from many corners, from people who say that training wouldn't make a difference – it's the road maintenance, the hours of driving, working conditions and so on. And everyone is right--- to a point. The fact is that after examining literally thousands of log truck crashes, WorkSafeBC, ICBC, RCMP and Coroner stats agree on one thing: while road conditions, weather conditions, working conditions, stress, and many other issues are contributing factors – the biggest single contributing cause to crashes (and not just big truck crashes) is driver error (more than half; some estimates are up to 80%).

There is no one single factor here – and they all contribute to each other one way or another. We need to work together to do what ever it takes to bring that factor down – at the same time as we focus on road conditions, licensee and ministry responsibilities, hours of driving, etc.

To get a copy of the Ombudsman's report, go to www.bcforestsafesafe.org and click on the link.

FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE LOOKS AT TRUCKER CERTIFICATION

In response to the Forest Safety Ombudsman's recommendations, Forestry TruckSafe will begin to look at what Log Trucker Certification could look like – and we need your help! We need to hear from you – what kind of skills do log haulers absolutely need to have? What do new drivers entering the log hauling business need to know? What kind of process would be the least onerous and yet improve driver knowledge and skill levels?

We'll also be looking for experienced log haulers, truck bosses, and driver instructors to be part of our Technical Advisory Team as we move forward on this one. If you're interested, please call MaryAnne Arcand (250)612-2267, or Bill Bolton (250)218-1677.

Frank Everitt, President of the Steelworkers 1-424 in Prince George, was quoted saying, "if you want to fix the problem we had better get the people involved in the decision making, the drivers, who make their living on the roads".

Frank, we agree with you, and invite you and your members to be part of this process, as well as the membership of the various trucking associations. We want the Log Truck Certification to be done "by truckers, for truckers", so it makes sense, is cost-effective, and will produce the results we want.

HOURS OF SERVICE/LOG BOOK WORKSHOPS

So far we have workshops for the upcoming regulation changes booked in Kelowna (January 27), Terrace (February 17), Williams Lake in May, Fort St John in June... if you want to book a workshop for your area, please contact Forestry TruckSafe as soon as possible, in order to get your preferred dates. The workshop will provide more detailed information on the Hours of Service changes, Log Book requirements, an overview of the proposed log trucking certification program, and what's coming down from other enforcement agencies. For more information, call the Forestry TruckSafe office, (250)562-8615 or 1-877-324-121.

NATURAL RESOURCES FORUM HELD LAST WEEK IN PG

Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell hosted his 5th annual Natural Resources Forum last week, which was attended by several hundred resource industry representatives, local government leaders, the Premier and several Cabinet ministers. On the Forestry TruckSafe side we were able to meet with Labor and Citizens' Services Minister Olga Illich to talk about road safety. Minister Illich is well informed, having come from industry herself, and has a good grasp of what's going on in the industry. Her interest in what we're doing is most welcome and encouraging. We're going to need that high level of interest and cooperation to accomplish the things we need to do – and the Ministry of Labor certainly should be part of the development of forest worker safety.

PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT LINKS DRIVING TO OBESITY

Provincial Health Officer Perry Kendall recently released a report on food, health and wellbeing in the province. In it the link is made between driving and obesity – that every 30 minutes of driving increases a person's risk of obesity by 3%. Well, given that many of you drive 20 x 30 minute segments every day (10 hours a day), a trucker's risk of obesity is increased by 60% over the average person. (p 109) And obesity leads to all kinds of other health issues- heart attacks, high blood pressure, diabetes, strokes, back pain.... we need to start looking at driver health issues! To see the report, go to <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/phoannual2005.pdf>

FORESTRY OMBUDSMAN IDENTIFIES STRESS AS A PROBLEM FOR FOREST INDUSTRY WORKERS—WHAT’S STRESSING YOU?

Roger Harris talked about stress of workers in the forest industry, as creating problems for retaining the labor force, but also contributing to injuries. So we’d like to hear from you – what’s stressing you? What are the stresses particular to driving and hauling that are affecting you? Or do they? Here’s a chance to have your voice heard!

EXTRAORDINARY DEER HAZARD ALERT NEAR VANDERHOOF –

There is a “hot spot” for deer collisions about 12 kilometers west of Vanderhoof, where McCall Road joins Highway 16. Estimates are that over a dozen deer have been struck by vehicles there since Christmas. Usually there are about 2 collisions every January on the roads within 50 kms of Vanderhoof, so this one site is quite over the average. It is a result of early and deep snow, good feed on one side of the highway, and a bedding down area on the other side of the highway. This is where we had our first fatality last year, because of an incident with a deer. Please be extra careful on that stretch!

GOOD GUYS SPOTTED

BPE would like to recognize Lyle Butler for outstanding performance. Jan. 10, 2007, Lyle was driving northbound by the casino. There was a pedestrian on the side of the road and Lyle pulled into the empty left hand lane to give the pedestrian lots of room, and then pulled back into the slow lane. This simple act of courtesy prompted another driver to pull up beside Lyle’s truck, take the truck number, and call BPE to inform us of the good deed that our driver did. Well-done Lyle!!

COMING UP

- **January 27** – Workshop on logbooks and upcoming HOS changes – Kelowna Ramada; Buffet breakfast at 8am, workshop 9-10:30 No charge Sponsored by ILA, Gorman Bros. and Forestry TruckSafe
- **January 31, Feb 1 & 2** - Western Silvicultural Association AGM & Conference Prince George -for details: www.wsca.ca
- **February 17** – Workshop on logbooks and upcoming HOS changes – Terrace Location to be confirmed
- **April 11- 13** COFI Annual Convention – Prince George - For details: www.cofi.org
- **April 19-21** Interior Logging Association Annual Convention, Vernon - For details: www.interiorlogging.org

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