



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.

PICKUPS AND SERVICE TRUCKS OVER 5,000 KGS MUST CARRY LOG BOOKS



There is some confusion around about application of the new rules for vehicles over 5000kg, so we got clarification from Ivor Marriott at CVSE. CVSE is interpreting the provincial regs to mean that **pickups over 5000kgs MUST ABIDE BY THE CURRENT HOURS OF SERVICE AND LOG BOOK RULES OR BE IN NON-COMPLIANCE AND AT RISK OF TICKETS OR WORSE.** This category includes 1 tons with service boxes, welders, fuel tanks, extra equipment etc.

According to this interpretation "a driver is a person driving a commercial vehicle over 5000kgs". So if your truck is licensed as a commercial vehicle (ie: business use), the driver is considered to fall under the Hours of Service regardless of whether he makes his living driving or doing other things (eg: mechanics, tire repairs, welding, etc).

This means the driver is limited to a 14 hour work day (driving and other work combined) and must keep a log book, even if they only drive on the job to and from the workplace.

This especially affects service trucks, tree planter crew cab drivers, etc.

Here's some more detail:

a 5000kg vehicle (2 axles) is NOT required to do a pre-trip or a post-trip, but DOES fall under the Hours of Service regs (max 70 hours on duty in 7 days- Cycle 1)

Vehicles over 5500kgs must report to the scales.

a written pre-trip is only required if the vehicle weighs more than 14,600 kgs or has more than 2 axles (Sec 37.23 c)

Soft enforcement for CVSE is supposed to go to June 30... but the RCMP are already giving tickets; supposedly an advisory only at this point in time; unless the driver is obviously way over on hours. Enforcement can mean an automatic 72 hours out of service. Sec 37.19.02(3)

There are plans to change the language in the regs to make it clearer- especially the loggers' hours, but this will take time.

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE....

Last Thursday's Ritchie Brothers sale in Prince George drew over 5,000 people (3,000 bidders) as yet more logging equipment went on the sales block. Buyers were even coming in by chopper – at one point in the day there were 6 helicopters sitting in the sales yard! And again, like last year, millions of dollars' worth of logging equipment was sold, most of which was bought by out-of-province buyers either in Alberta or in the US. Several logging and road building contractors sold out, creating an even greater shortage of equipment and operators.



It's a real concern- where do the operators go? Do they stay in forestry? A well known interior contractor shut down his operations permanently this break-up and 7 of his 9 operators are leaving the forest industry altogether, going into construction and other fields. Not only are we not attracting new entrants into the industry, we're losing well-experienced skilled operators and drivers to other industries. With the current low lumber prices and mill shutdowns, we can expect more operators and equipment to seek employment elsewhere in order to have steady work. Somehow, the whole industry has to tackle this problem together in order to keep it viable for the future.

TREEPLANTERS OUT IN FULL FORCE

As we've traveled the province in the past couple of weeks, the tree planter convoys have been highly visible. It's great to see them out there, and to be able to say "good job" to those who have the number plates on their vehicles. This past week we've seen crews from Apex, Folklore, Spectrum, Celtic and others – and can see a difference in their driving procedures over last year. Good speeds, everybody wearing seatbelts, good spacing when their traveling in convoy. And we have heard that there has been more training of crews before they headed into the bush – ATV operations, light duty resource road driving, etc. So "way to go" to the silviculture contractors who are being proactive with their safety programs. When we all work together, it makes a difference.

VIN PLATE REGISTRY COMING THIS MONTH

So many companies have joined the move to the Vehicle Identification Number Plates that we are planning to start a free registry to avoid duplication and track who has what numbers. There will be more news in upcoming Rumbings, so stay tuned. Thanks to everyone who has already sent us your numbers. MoFR, BCTS, MoE, DoF and other government agencies have joined in too. And congratulations to the latest public agency to join the VIN plate program – FERIC numbered their vehicles last week.

Why bother? On roads with multiple users, it helps to keep track of who's doing what. The plates provide an element of accountability, and we have seen driver behaviors change in areas that have adopted them. Especially with the mobility of trucks because of BCTS bids, etc, where "stranger" trucks go to new areas, being able to identify the trucks helps with communication, risk management, and accountability. The cost of a plate is around \$20, a small investment for a big return. This system is not just for log trucks – we'd especially like the pickups to participate, as in many cases, they are the biggest offenders when it comes to speeding, not using radios, etc.

For further information on the VIN plates, size and content, please [click here](#). If you have any questions, call MaryAnne at (250)612-2267.

TRUCKER APPRECIATION DAY FOR THE BULKLEY VALLEY AREA COMING JUNE 12

The annual trucker appreciation day for Bulkley Valley/the Lakes District truckers is set for June 12 in Houston. The day will include a barbecue lunch and a range of speakers bringing updates on regulation and responsibility requirements. There'll be lots of prizes and recognition, so if you haul in that area, plan to attend.

The 11th annual truckers' appreciation day held in Williams Lake April 27 saw more than 180 truckers in attendance – a great turnout, and an indicator of the level of commitment by these guys to do things right. Good job guys.

Two more Trucker Appreciation Days are planned in the north – one in Terrace and one in Prince George, both coming in June. Stay tuned for further details.

And well done to all the other licensees and groups who have been holding safety days and trainings for their drivers and crews. Since the last Rumbings we've presented Forestry TruckSafe and/or SAFE Companies information at the ILA Convention, Castlegar, Mackenzie, Williams Lake, Quesnel and to the Mayors and Councilors attending the NCMA convention. In the next few weeks we're off to Weyerhaeuser Princeton, Canfor Radium, Pope & Talbot Nakusp, Oyster River Logging/Campbell River, Canfor Fort St John, Quesnel, Canfor Chetwynd, the Queen Charlottes and others. There's still time if you want to book a presentation for your spring safety meeting. Just email arcand@bcforestsafesafe.org.



WILDLIFE ON THE MOVE

Just a reminder to watch for wildlife along the roadsides as they green up. The deer especially like to browse on the fresh shoots- and there are plenty of them dead along the highway. This past week we've seen deer, moose, bears, elk and mountain sheep along or on the road. Keep your eyes open and be aware of avoidance tactics, like slowing down, honking your horn, etc. Don't want to end up like this guy!

YOUR VOICE-

Hi MaryAnne,

We recently had an incident at work involving one of our off-highway trucks. Fortunately the story has a happy ending. Bob had picked up a different truck than he usually drove and was heading for the bush empty. While driving, a ball joint on the truck fell off causing an immediate loss of steering. The truck left the road and rolled 1 1/2 times over a virtual sheer drop of 250 feet. The truck stopped 100 feet from the road against a tree with the stakes stuck in the ground, . The tree and the stakes stopped it from falling another 150 feet to the river. Bob was wearing his seatbelt and remained in the truck during this hair raising ride. Shook up and bruised up a little Bob was helped from the truck by a driver who had been following him. In conversations with Bob he stated that it was always his opinion that staying with the truck was the safest way in an incident. Wearing the seat belt is what Bob credits with his slight injuries in what most definitely would have been a serious or even fatal ending to this story had Bob willingly exited or been ejected from the truck. Bob has been driving "Fat Trucks" for many years. So young fellows forget the door in an incident and use the seatbelt at all times. Remember that "Driving Safe Starts With The Nut Behind The Wheel"

Ed note: I couldn't have said it better myself!

THANKS, ILA!

I just want to thank the ILA for their recognition of our efforts to make Forestry TruckSafe a success. It means so much to get that kind of validation from the very folks whose lives we're trying to make safer. I'm still in shock over having been chosen "ILA Member of the Year", and have been overwhelmed with the response to that from hundreds of you who have emailed your support and congratulations. All of us at the BC Forest Safety Council are working flat out to make the industry safer, and in the end, more profitable, to work in- and we really appreciate the public acknowledgement that we're making a difference. Thanks again, MaryAnne

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NANAIMO OFFICE

On May 14 the BC Forest Safety Council will officially open its Nanaimo office, located at 35 Front St. The Nanaimo office is home of the Faller Certification Program, the Forest Worker Development Program and most of the SAFE Companies staff.

Take this opportunity to meet director of forest worker development Steve Mueller and the staff delivering province-wide support for our training and SAFE Companies certification initiatives. Helping us celebrate will be Nanaimo business and community leaders, municipal and provincial officials and forest industry representatives. We look forward to seeing you there.

Time: Monday, May 14, 2007 – 4 to 7 p.m.

Place: 103 – 65 Front St., Nanaimo (Parking available in public lots under the Coast Plaza Hotel or Float Plane Terminal)

RSVP: 1-877-741-1060.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- FERIC Mountain Pine Beetle Workshop, May 11, Grande Prairie
- BC Forest Safety Council Nanaimo Office Grand Opening, May 14
- Trucker Safety Meeting, Campbell River, May 14

- Trucker Safety Day, Weyerhaeuser Princeton May 16
- Trucker Safety Meeting, Nakusp May 30
- Canfor Safety Meeting, Radium May 31
- Trucker Safety Meeting, Canfor Ft St John, June 6
- Canfor Safety Day, Chetwynd June 26

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