



RUMBLINGS

FOR SAFE ROADS, LOADS AND DRIVERS — ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA
FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE



BC Forest Safety Council

PRINTABLE VERSION

Safety in Forestry Transportation

TruckSafe Rumbings 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.

Construction Season – watch for the signs and flagpersons

A flag person was struck by a car earlier this week south of Prince George. Thankfully, she wasn't too badly hurt. Flag persons are out there to guide the traffic safely, but they often take abuse from motorists who are being inconvenienced. In this case, an elderly motorist didn't notice all the signs, flags, cones, or the stopped vehicle in front of him, and hit the stopped vehicle, causing it to leap forward and hit the flagperson.

There's no way around it – it is construction season, which means waiting in lines, losing time, and being frustrated. We all need to have patience and pay a little more attention to the lineups. Try putting your four way flashers on if you're the last in line – it'll just give the guy coming up behind you one more warning that you're stopped.

Radio channel frequency pilot

More than 50 people attended the public meetings in Dawson Creek and Chetwynd on July 9 to learn more about the Radio Channel Pilot planned for the Tumbler Ridge area. Representatives of the oil & gas, mining and logging industries came out to listen and ask questions about how the pilots are going to work, the new signage, and the intended purpose of the change. To see the presentations made at the public meetings, go to www.bcforestsafe.org and click on the Forestry TruckSafe button. There are 4 different presentations there for downloading – 2 from the Ministry of Forests, one from Industry Canada, and one from Forestry TruckSafe, each outlining different aspects of the project.

The pilot for Tumbler Ridge/OJAY area is planned to start in November this year. A similar pilot for Vancouver Island/Sunshine Coast will be starting in August. Watch for new signage, and more information from BCTS on the Island.

Follow Up on Recommendations from Leroux Inquest

Recommendations from the Leroux Inquest that were directed to the BC Forest Safety Council are now being implemented at various levels. We're holding preliminary discussions with ICBC around the idea of a Log Truck Driver Licensing Endorsement program. As well, a working group is being formed to

finalize standardized radio protocols and rules of the road. The group will be meeting in Prince George September 18 and 19, to get that piece of work done, as well as a Job Safety Breakdown for developing a Log Truck Driver training standard. The working group will consist of truckers from all regions of the province, WorkSafeBC, MoFR, BCTS and logging association representatives.

SAFE Companies Individual Owner/Operators SAFETY Log Pilots starting

The Forest Safety Council's SAFE Companies program is well on its way to becoming the industry standard all over the province. Over 2,000 companies have stepped up to the plate and registered, including lots of Individual Owner/Operator truckers and equipment operators. Way to go to everyone who has already registered! The Council has worked with owner/operators and put together a SAFETY Log for the small guys to use. We're testing it around the province in August, and when we've got feedback from the guys in the field, adjustments will be made and the final version will be released. Meanwhile, if you haven't already registered for SAFE Companies, and you're an Individual Owner/Operator (meaning there's just you and your truck, or you and your skidder doing field work in your company), consider getting ahead of the rush this fall and registering now. The Individual Owner/Operator SAFE Companies roll-out will be coming out early this fall.

CVSE "Soft Enforcement" extended to October

We've been told that CVSE's "soft enforcement" period for log books has been extended to October because some of the requirements in the recent changes are being revisited. For example, the requirement for drivers of vehicles over 5,000kgs to do log books is likely going to be changed, and the ceiling raised to 11,800kgs. As well, the language in some of Section 37 is being clarified. So stay tuned!

Ritchie Brothers Sale in PG – 43 more trucks gone

The Ritchie Brothers sale in PG last Tuesday had 148 pieces of logging equipment in it, including 43 logging trucks, aged from mid-90's to 2007. Prices were poor, and most of the trucks and equipment went out of province. Attendance at the sale wasn't very good either, and wasn't the usual energetic gathering of loggers and truckers. From Prince George west to Smithers there are few trucks working yet. Some around Burns Lake are scheduled to go back to work (first time since March) next week, but others around Houston have been put back to an August start. There are mill closures around Vanderhoof and PG. It's going to be a really tough year for some of these guys.

There's a sale in Vancouver this coming Thursday, with loaders, skidders, yarders, processors and trucks on the list there as well. And by that time, the Coast may well be shut down by a strike.... a tough year all the way around.

Hotline Calls - Eating Dust and Rocks

Calls coming in to the Forest Safety Hotline the past few weeks have all had to do with road maintenance, particularly dust control. Truckers have been telling us that when they complain about the lack of dust control they're being told "there's no money". Sorry- not good enough! Road maintenance and safety of road users remains an obligation of the road permit holder – it's not an option.

We've also had a couple of calls from motorists who've had rocks flying out of truck tires take out their windshields – one from a logging truck and one from a pickup. Just a reminder, guys, when you leave the gravel for the highway, you have to stop and check your wrappers anyway, so please check your tires for rocks.

If you have concerns or issues, please give the Hotline a call 1-877-324-1212

Ontario and Quebec planning to slow trucks down

Ontario is expected to regulate commercial truck speeds this fall by requiring speed limiters (governors)

on all big rigs, set at a maximum of 105 kms/hr. Now the Quebec government has indicated that it intends to follow suit, if re-elected. Quebec is also looking at bringing back photo radar, banning hand-held cell phones, intersection cameras and tougher penalties. Are we next?

Fatigue and Drowsy Driving – not just truckers

A new poll in Ontario shows that as many as 167,000 Ontario drivers were involved in crashes due to drowsy driving or falling asleep last year. An article in Today's Trucking says that 1.3 million Ontarians fell asleep while driving at least once last year, according to the Traffic Injury Research Foundation.

Especially during the summer, when folks are on long vacation trips in the warm weather, we need to remind drivers to take a break, get out and stretch once in a while, drink water, and stop to rest or take a nap when you start feeling drowsy- for everybody's sake!

Island Truck Show – August Long Weekend.

The 2nd annual Island Truck Show runs on the August Long Weekend at the Saratoga Speedway, at Black Creek. Come join the Island and Coast truckers as they show "pride in their ride". It's absolutely amazing how these guys spit and polish their working trucks- dump trucks, tow trucks, log trucks, low beds, highway trucks. The Saturday night light show is something to see!



Here Chester and the boys from Quesnel are giving 'er one last polish before the judges by, at last month's Big Rig show in Mission. Forestry TruckSafe is proud to be sponsoring a trophy for the best self-loader at this year's Island Truck Show. We'll be there with a booth, to answer your questions, give out information, and enjoy just hangin' out. See you there, Aug 4 and 5th.



Big Rig Log Truck Winner-
Tiffany Fryer, 2007 Western Star

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 4 & 5 – Island Truck Show, Saratoga Speedway, Black Creek
- Aug 6 - Squamish Loggers Sports Day, Truck Rodeo, Squamish
- Aug 25 – Truckers Information Day & BBQ, Terrace
- Sept 21,22 & 23- ILA Golf Tournament, Fairmont Hot Springs
- Oct 16 & 17 – “Sharing the Road” Conference, Prince George

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumblings, 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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