



RUMBLINGS

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



BC Forest Safety Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

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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.



It's always the season to be safe.

**We wish you a safe and healthy
year in 2008!**

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again! 2007 seems to have flown by – lots of changes and lots of challenges. 2008 is going to be like that, too, but we'll get through it successfully and safely if we continue to work together towards the same goals.

Thanks so much to all of you who have expressed your support for our work, or who have attended presentations, used the Hotline, written us your opinions, or, most importantly, have accepted the challenge to do it all better and safer! We see it making a difference.... And we believe there are folks alive today because you made positive choices for change!

As they used to say back in the day, "keep those cards and letters coming in, folks!". Enjoy your holiday season, and keep it safe!

EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY.... But don't drive!

At a law seminar for non-profits held last week at UNBC, the presenters made some hard statements about employers' responsibilities when it comes to employee consumption at company events.

As they said, "it's hardly an upbeat, 'seasons greetings'... but it's a message every employer needs to hear."

"The employer has a duty to take active steps to prevent injuries as a result of its employees' alcohol consumption. Put another way, the employer's duty is to ensure its employees do not become so intoxicated as to interfere with their ability to return home safely.

Don't assume your company is protected from liability simply because the event is held at a commercial establishment or has a 'cash bar'. Don't allow employees who are exhibiting outward signs of impairment to continue drinking. Don't ever leave the decision of whether to drive in the hands of the potentially impaired employee. Don't hesitate to invoke your authority as the employer in assuring compliance with your efforts to ensure your employees' safety. And Most importantly, don't allow a potentially impaired employee to leave the event unless accompanied by a designated driver (or by some other sober person) who has clear instructions to get the employee directly home.

Each organization must choose whether to take pro-active steps to protect its employees (and the people whose lives they might affect). Your choices won't necessarily be popular, but, if you make the right ones, you'll know you've done everything you can to ensure they, and the people around them, enjoy a safe holiday season". – ProBono Law of BC, Smithson and Fahey.



FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE ACTIVITIES UPDATE - DECEMBER 2007

Log hauling continues to record the highest number of injuries in the forest sector. So far in 2007 there has been 1 fatality, 14 serious injuries, and 10 less serious injuries in log hauling reported to WorkSafeBC, for a total of 25. The overall total in the harvesting sector for this year is 63, so trucking incidents (reported) account for 40% of this year's injuries.

The following bullets give a "snapshot" of what we're working on through the Forestry TruckSafe program:

- Developing an SOP for Steep Slope Hauling for highway trucks (provincial working group)
- Participation in provincial working group for reducing radio frequencies
- Developing a provincial default SOP for radio calling procedures
- Initiating a provincial registry for VIN plates for forest company vehicles, including logging, silviculture, service contractors and government
- Participation in provincial working group on Class 1 standards, curriculum and instructor

training

- Facilitating or supporting the development of road user groups around the province
- Assisting with the roll-out of SAFE companies for Individual Owner Operators
- Problem-solving hotline calls and concerns
- Public education on sharing the road with trucks (commercial radio, written materials)
- Working with mayors and local governments to deal with truck traffic through their downtown cores
- Collaborating with WorkSafeBC at the provincial level on the rollout of the RRSP
- Collaborating with BCTS at the provincial level on standardized signage
- Lobbying CVSE for changes to regulations and policies (eg: off-road lights, ABS brakes, etc)
- Informing haulers of regulation changes, industry trends, technologies, etc. through Rumbings newsletter (67 issues to date) and presentations (36 this year in 24 communities)
- Facilitating a working group on log truck driver certification.
- Facilitating multi-industry stakeholder group (oil & gas, mining & forestry) where the three industries interface
- Participation in FERIC projects, addressing safety concerns
- Advocacy for truckers with ICBC, RCMP, CVSE, re: incidents, insurance and enforcement issues

RADIO FREQUENCY CHANGES UPDATE FROM BCTS- thanks to Dave Hamilton of BCTS, Strait of Georgia, for this update:

As of January 1, 2008 BCTS will be implementing the Resource Road Radio Frequency Pilot Project in the Eve / Naka operating area. Other operating areas within the Strait of Georgia will have the implemented during 2008. For more information click on either of the following links <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcr/> or <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/areas/TSG.htm>

We are planning to use channel RR-17A in the Eve / Naka area. However, as this is a pilot project, this frequency may be changed if difficulties are encountered. It is highly recommended that you have all the **Resource Road** and **Loading/Unloading** channels installed on your radio to avoid repeated trips to the radio shop.

During the course of this pilot project FERIC will be monitoring its' effectiveness and conducting interviews. Your co-operation with FERIC would be greatly appreciated.

BCTS is fully committed to making this project work and welcomes any feedback you may have. Any general road safety issues can be brought up to the BC Forest Safety Council through Forestry Trucksafe at arcand@bcforestsafe.org. For any issues related to the radio frequencies in the Eve / Naka area please feel free to contact BCTS Strait of Georgia at any time.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO RITCHIE BROTHERS AUCTIONS

We want to publicly acknowledge and thank Ritchie Brothers Auctions for allowing us to have a table and Forest Safety Council materials at their sales in Prince George this year. Being at the sale gives us a chance to meet a lot of folks, see what's happening on the ground, and bring information to contractors and operators who otherwise may never see anyone from the Council in person. Thank you, Ritchie Brothers, for supporting safety in forestry and for your customers!

YOUR VOICE

Dear Ms. Arcand, I just read a piece in the Quesnel Cariboo Observer about the above mentioned

meeting regarding safe driving conditions here in the Northern interior. I feel compelled to add my 2 cents worth. One quote says, "there was a real concern from truckers for the safety of the general public." Another quote says, "...it takes a semi 300 feet to stop...and that's in summer conditions."

I have been on the roads between Vanderhoof and Quesnel in the recent weeks and one particular early morning the roads were very bad. The semi-trucks did not slow down one bit, and were passing me one after the other. I did my best to help them get by as soon as possible because of course, as in normal driving conditions, they sit right on your bumper until they see an opportunity to pass. Further down the road on that particular day, we were stopped at an accident scene; it turned out to be one of those trucks - piled up at the railroad overpass just north of Cottonwood River bridge.

Yes, safety is a huge issue, but that includes these big trucks. They also need to slow down when driving conditions are compromised and stop riding bumpers! Because you are right - 300 feet or 500 feet, that is a very long way!
TH, Quesnel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 17 & 18 – Truck Loggers Convention, Vancouver
Jan 17 & 18 – Natural Resources Forum, Prince George
Feb 7 & 8 – Western Silviculture Contractors Conference, Sun Peaks

JANUARY TRAINING

Small Employer	Williams Lake	Jan 17 & 18
Internal Auditor	Nanaimo	Jan 21, 22, 23
Basic Supervisor	Courtenay	Jan 21, 22
Faller Supervisor	Courtenay	Jan 23, 24, 25
Small Employer	Prince George	Jan 21, 22
Small Employer	Nanaimo	Jan 28, 29
Basic Supervisor	Courtenay	Jan 28, 29
Basic Supervisor	Courtenay	Jan 31, Feb 1

You can register for courses or check times and dates at www.bcforestsafe.org

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