



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.

LOG TRUCKER DIES IN HEAD ON COLLISION

This past Wednesday, Jan 16, Robert Joseph Kandler of Prince George was killed in a head on crash with another log truck near Ft St James. The crash occurred around 4 am, at 62 km on the North Road (a public road). Kandler's loaded truck collided head on with an empty. RCMP, WorkSafeBC and the Coroner's office are still investigating, so we don't have more details at this time. He is the first log hauler to be killed in northern BC in 14 months. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and co-workers.

We are into the "push before breakup" in the interior, and we've been hearing about many incidents and near misses since the new year began. The Ministry of Forests just today released a news bulletin in the Nadina (Burns Lake/Houston) district reminding truckers to use their radios after several near misses. A load of logs was spilled in downtown Burns Lake right in front of the A & W when there was a failure on the trailer. Luckily no one was on that sidewalk or parking lot at the time. Last week a Vanderhoof woman was killed in a crash with a chip truck on Hwy 16. Several vehicles hit the ditch to avoid crashes near Quesnel.... And those are just a few that we've heard about in the past week.

Please, let's work together to get everybody home safe. Drive to conditions, use your radios, slow down..... it's just not worth dying for.

BC Highways Maintenance



JUDGING HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE IN BC

The BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU) has posted a Highways Maintenance Checklist on their website, and wants the public's input about the levels of highways maintenance in the province.

Whether current maintenance conditions are due to privatization or not, which is more of a political issue than anything, the fact is that the majority of hotline calls that come in to the Forest Safety Hotline have to do with road maintenance on public roads. Just last month we held a public meeting in Quesnel on that very issue.

The BCGEU checklist covers the main points that are part of the 223 page Maintenance Specifications Manual (available for downloading at

<http://www.bcgeu.ca/files/B.C%20Ministry%20of%20Transportation%20Maintenance%20Specifications.pdf>) .

= It also has a list of all the road maintenance contractors and their toll free hotline numbers for the whole province (<http://www.bcgeu.ca/files/Highways%20Maintenance%20Checklist.pdf>).

We'll be posting these on the Forestry TruckSafe page of the BC Forest Safety Council website as well (www.bcforestsafe.org), and encourage you to fill out the checklist, and fax it to us. Put your area on it, so we know where you're reporting from.

According to the BCGEU, their information package about highway maintenance "has been designed with all highways stakeholders in mind, including commercial users who have an economic interest in properly maintained roads, and residents who may have questions or safety concerns relating to road maintenance. "Highway workers are also aware of the frustration and uncertainty surrounding road maintenance. Are snowplows on the road soon enough? Are potholes repaired when they should be? This information kit will help drivers answer those questions and many others."

"Private highway maintenance contractors collect more than \$300 million each year from B.C. taxpayers. Drivers will now be able to accurately judge whether these contractors are meeting their performance targets, whether our roads are being maintained properly, safely and in a timely manner," says George Heyman, head of the BCGEU.

Please take a few minutes to print off the checklist, tick off the issues you see, and fax it to us at 250-562-9237. We'll forward it on to the powers that be....

RADIO CALLING PROCEDURES SURVEY

After delays due to technical issues, holidays, etc, an electronic radio calling procedures survey will be coming out to all Rumblings subscribers next week. The survey basically asks your opinion about calling language and who should call when. Please take a few minutes and fill it out, so we can bring your preferences to the provincial working group.

PRINCE GEORGE'S ICE JAM SAGA CONTINUES



The ice jam situation on the Nechako River, now into its 35th day, has affected more than 100 businesses and residents along its banks, including the BC Forest Safety Council offices on River Road. We've all been on evacuation alert, or evacuated, for more than a month now. But at least we've been able to go to work. The workers at Winton Global down the road haven't been so lucky, and the latest word is that they'll not be going back now until at least mid-March. Lakeland Mill was only closed for a couple of days, but Brinks' has also shut down, leaving another 100 workers off the job. In the midst of all the curtailments, cutbacks and shutdowns, losing work due to an ice jam and flooding in the middle of winter seems over the top.

The Amphibex excavator is expected to arrive today to begin breaking up the ice jam now at Day 39.

The City of Prince George and the Provincial Emergency Program folks this week approved a couple of strategies to break the jam: first, to pump warm water from Canfor's pulp mill onto the ice to melt it, and second, to bring in an amphibious excavator to break a channel through the ice and get the water flowing from the Nechako into the Fraser. The emergency diking and services over the past 35 days have already cost more than \$3 million, and we're not done yet. But the cost to the businesses (mainly forestry or forestry related) along River Road has not been calculated. And it's more than just money – peoples' homes, lives and livelihoods have been damaged, some beyond repair. The businesses along the road have formed the Nechako Industrial group, to try and mitigate the damage and potential future risks that the emergency diking may bring.

There's a lot of controversy in Prince George about how the situation has been handled, and whether the jam should have been dynamited a month ago. It's a good example of the need for clarification and cooperation among the various levels of government, along with businesses and individuals to deal with situations that affect thousands of people. Several groups representing citizens and businesses have formed to advocate for inclusion in decision making and consultation in plans for the future.

WORKSAFE LOG HAULING SAFETY VIDEOS ON YOU TUBE

WorkSafeBC has produced three new safety videos which they have uploaded to You Tube: a video guide to checking U-bolts on trailers; log hauling safety; and logging safety awareness. They highlight some of the operational and safety issues log truckers face, and are worth watching. You can access them all easily by going to the BC Forest Safety Council website under 'What's New' and click on the Safety Videos link or click here <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/content-nav-alerts/nav-alerts-videos.htm>

SPECTRUM WINS INNOVATION AWARD

Spectrum Resources, a Prince George based silviculture firm, came away from last night's Northern BC Business and Technology Awards with the John Humphreys Forest Innovator Award. Crawford Young accepted the award on behalf of his team, which developed an herbicide spreader that attaches to the bottom of a brush saw, vastly reducing the environmental impact of aerial spraying. Congratulations to the Spectrum crew for their innovative solution to a practical problem.

The Forest Innovator Award is presented to a business that has developed a leading edge wood product or production technology to enhance Northern BC forest production or sustainability.

CONFERENCE ATTENDEES PUT THEIR "DRUNK GOGGLES" ON

This week the Forest Safety Council had booths at both the Truck Loggers Convention in Vancouver and the Natural Resources Forum in Prince George, where conference goers could try on the so-called "drunk goggles" and test their skills at golf, ball throwing, walking the line and other motor skills. The "drunk goggles" come in a set of four, ranging from under the legal BAC limit to way over (up to .15, double the legal limit). The intent of the drunk goggles is to raise awareness of how being impaired affects your judgement of time and space, and your reaction times. Attendees at the TLA could also get their blood sugars and blood cholesterol tested, and do a quiz about their own health awareness. These activities are all part of the Safety Council's 2008 initiative on worker wellness, announced Wednesday, which will focus on fatigue, substance use, diet and lifestyle.

YOUR VOICE

Hey there Maryanne , I'm 35 years old - been driving lowbed for 9 years and hauling logs for 6 years, mostly in the Merritt - Princeton area. For the past month or so I've been on the (bear rd) Sunset main turnoff Hwy 97c . That has got to be one of the busiest roads in BC. Like I said, I've lowbedded for 9 years been on a thousand different roads in BC, calling up , down , north, south, loaded , empty, and in and out . The best system I've ever come across was in Mackenzie. The empty truck's call 0 km empty , and didn't say another word, just listened for loaded trucks and clearing them in a safe manner .

Like I said I've been in the industry for 15 years- but today I had to stop and get a hold of the situation. There was way too much traffic , (radio traffic) and I lost track of who was where . There must be 40 different trucks on that rd, and 6 different rd's all on the SAME channel - which would have been fine if only the loaded one's are calling.
MD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 7 & 8 – Western Silviculture Contractors Conference, Sun Peaks

Feb 21 & 22 – Association of BC Registered Forestry Professionals Conference, Penticton

JANUARY TRAINING

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

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