



# 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.**

## ROADSIDE AIR CARE TESTING FOR TRUCKS

On April 2 the Ministry of Transportation announced the Air Care On Road program, known as ACOR. ACOR identifies trucks whose engines are emitting excessive smoke as a result of a component failure, lack of maintenance or deliberate tampering with the engine settings.

**ACOR Test Measures Opacity** ACOR inspectors use the standard snap acceleration test to measure the opacity of diesel emissions. The test is accepted in North America as the standard test for identifying malfunctioning diesel engines. It is used in air quality programs in Ontario and the United States.

**How Does ACOR Work?** ACOR inspectors identify vehicles for testing through a visual inspection. Vehicles with dark smoke are more likely to be tested, because dark smoke is a sign the vehicle may be operating outside allowable limits. The ACOR test will determine if your vehicle meets these emissions standards:

Model Year of Engine	Maximum Allowable Opacity
Pre-1991	55%
1991 and newer	40%

If your vehicle fails to meet these standards, you may be ordered to have your vehicle repaired and retested, and you may be ticketed for violation of diesel emission standards under the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations. Most truck owners and operators recognize that a smoking truck is a problem truck. High smoke levels can be caused by many problems, including:

- Restricted air filter
- Improper injection timing
- Clogged, worn or mismatched fuel injectors
- Faulty or maladjusted fuel injection pump
- Defective or maladjusted puff limiter
- Low air box pressure
- Improperly adjusted valve lash or governor
- Air manifold leaks
- Malfunctioning turbocharger
- Malfunctioning after cooler
- Defective air fuel controller

- Poor fuel quality
- Improper driving gear
- Defective computer controls (sensors, wiring, etc.)
- Clogged exhaust after-treatment devices or spent catalyst

The AirCare ON-ROAD program is operated by the Ministry of Transportation. For more information on ACOR, call: 1-888-775-8785 P.S. That's the Hotline Number, too.

### **SO WE WONDERED.....**

Interior and northern BC have never had Air Care programs, nor does Vancouver Island. The 10 Air Care inspection stations in BC are located between Chilliwack and Vancouver. And now there are going to be roadside inspections? CILA Manager Rick Publicover called CVSE Director Greg Gilks for details. Gilks said that their approach is going to be one of education and communication at the outset, not fines, and that they probably won't be initiating the program in the interior and northern BC until this fall. The Ministry has also set up a Hotline number for people to report "smoking trucks".

### **NORTHERNERS FIGHT CARBON TAX**

Northern BC mayors have been arguing with Finance Minister Carole Taylor that the carbon tax is unfair to northern BC residents because their citizens already pay higher prices for fuel and don't have alternative choices like public transit. But the minister is not backing down, saying that the \$100 cheque British Columbians are going to receive to offset the cost, plus upcoming income tax cuts, will make up for the loss of money from consumers' pockets. In the end, she says, you're going to have more money in hand than the extra costs of the carbon tax.

Paul Landry, CEO of the BC Trucking Association, estimates that the carbon tax is going to cost the average truck \$1,000 extra this year, \$3,000 in 2009, and \$6,000 by 2012.

### **TRUCKERS AROUND NORTH AMERICA PROTEST DIESEL PRICES**

All across the US truckers have been striking or protesting the high price of diesel and there are talks of strikes in Canada as well. In Nova Scotia the "Truckers For Justice" held a protest last month, in which more than 200 truckers participated. But they left their trucks at home, and drove their personal cars to the protest, as a statement that it costs too much to run the trucks. We've been hearing talk about a trucker striker here, but nothing concrete so far.

Back east, several log haulers in Maine took their trucks to the state capitol building last Friday, and in front of the governor and other elected officials, handed the keys of their trucks to a repo man. Today's Trucking, an online magazine for the trucking industry, this week conducted a poll of truckers with the question, "***Is it possible that the high fuel costs will jeopardize your operation's very survival?***" and 86% of the respondents so far have said **YES!**

### **NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR PRINCE GEORGE SCALES**

The new Weigh Scales for Prince George, to be built south of the city at Red Rock, will be have Weigh in Motion (WIM) and Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) technology, which will allow safe, legal trucks to bypass the weigh scale at highway speeds. This will improve the efficiency of moving goods through the use of electronic clearance and roadside inspection. Weigh-in-motion (WIM) devices are designed to capture and record truck axle weights and gross vehicle weights as they drive over a sensor.

Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) technology allows trucks equipped with transponders to pass through weigh scales without stopping. This means that in the near future, only trucks that don't meet pre-clearance requirements, and those chosen for random inspection, will be required to stop for inspection at scales.

Canada and the US are working together on a pilot to ensure the same technology will work on both sides of the border, according to Transport Canada. The AVI and WIM systems are already widely used in much of North America.

## UPDATED INTEGRATED LOG BOOK TEMPLATE

We are posting an updated Integrated Log Book Template to our website, to meet the upcoming WorkSafe logbook requirements as well as CVSE's. Go to [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org) and click on TruckSafe, or give us a call and we'll get a copy to you. The update will be sent this week to stationary shops around the province that are keeping it on file electronically.

## RADIO SURVEY RESULTS

902 surveys were submitted electronically, via the Zoomerang survey tool. In addition, 187 were received by fax, and a further 104 by email. The email submissions and many of the faxed submissions also contained comments and opinions from a variety of road users. As well we received hand-written surveys, phone calls and personal visits. The response was overwhelming! – thanks all of you. A review of the email addresses and sources of faxes indicates that a broad variety of road users responded to the survey, including the forest industry, government employees, oil & gas employees, service companies and other interested parties such as guide outfitters and recreational users. Here are the results of the first question. I'll be putting more of the results in upcoming Rumbblings, so stay tuned:

### 1. In your opinion, which of the following issues around radio use are the top three contributors to crashes or unsafe road use around the province?

Chatter	519	58%
Wrong channels and/or frequencies	305	34%
Different radio calling procedures	182	20%
Signage	200	22%
Power/wattage	15	2%
Vehicles without radios	323	36%
Radio-equipped vehicles not calling	394	44%
“convoy” calling – calling for more than one vehicle	25	3%
“walking over” – too many users on one channel	271	30%
Changing channels too many times on one cycle	98	11%
Not being allowed to program your own radio	116	13%
Permission to use channels	19	2%
“Scanning” while driving	136	15%
Other, please specify	172	19%

## LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF: Sleep Apnea

American medical experts are recommending to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that overweight commercial vehicle drivers be tested for sleep apnea. The FMCSA hasn't set a timeline for making a decision. Sleep apnea contributes to drowsy driving, and studies show that upwards of 30% of truckers have it but are undiagnosed. Several lawsuits in the State laid legal liability on drivers or company owners who had sleep apnea and weren't being treated.

We've written about sleep apnea several times in Rumbblings, the ILA and Pro Trucker magazines (ever since MaryAnne was diagnosed last year!). If you want to know more about it, we'll send you a copy of “Sleeping with Darth Vader”, or give MaryAnne a call at 250 612 2267.

## SAFE COMPANIES INDIVIDUAL OWNER OPERATOR COURSE

The SAFE Companies course for Individual Owner Operators is being offered in over 30 locations over the next two months. They're filling up fast, so take advantage of the course in your area, and call 1 877 741 1060 to register. IOO Safety Courses are full in Prince George Apr 14 (truckers), Campbell River Apr 23, Houston Apr

28 and Kamloops Apr 30.

The next truckers only course is in Williams Lake Apr 26, the day after the Trucker Appreciation event. Sign up now, guys!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 17 & 18** – COFI Convention, Kelowna [www.cofi.ca](http://www.cofi.ca)

**April 25** – Trucker Appreciation Day, Williams Lake

**May 8-10-** Interior Loggers Association Convention, Kamloops [www.interiorlogging.org](http://www.interiorlogging.org)

**May 10** – Take Control of Your Economic Future, Civic Centre, Prince George 10am-4:30pm

**May 22** – What's New in Resource Roads? FERIC Videoconference; Courtenay, Kamloops, Prince George, Cranbrook For more information, the agenda, and registration information:

[http://www.feric.ca/en/?CFTOKEN=19421583&OBJECTID=2EA8B493-E081-222F-](http://www.feric.ca/en/?CFTOKEN=19421583&OBJECTID=2EA8B493-E081-222F-A40D04F440F13942&CFID=6710)

[A40D04F440F13942&CFID=6710](http://www.feric.ca/en/?CFTOKEN=19421583&OBJECTID=2EA8B493-E081-222F-A40D04F440F13942&CFID=6710) Please register early as seating is limited at all locations.

**June 3-5** – Bio Energy Conference, Prince George [www.bioenergyconference.org](http://www.bioenergyconference.org)

**June 5-7-** Forest & Resources Expo, Prince George [www.forestandresources.org](http://www.forestandresources.org)

**June 6 & 7-** Pro Trucker Big Rig Show 'n Shine, Prince George

**July 3-5** - BC Big Rig Weekend, Chilliwack

If you have a trucking related event you'd like us to post for you, email [arcand@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:arcand@bcforestsafe.org) with the details.

***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](mailto:arcand@bctrucksafe.org)***

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