



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 truck driver fatality – 3rd this year

We lost our third log truck driver so far this year on Tuesday July 1, William Jefferies, 52, from Port Alberni. Not a lot of details are available yet, but we do know he was at a wet sort and was in the process of unhitching and reloading his trailer. The Coroner's office and WorkSafe are investigating.

The other two driver fatalities this year occurred near Fort Saint James in January (on public road) and Fort St John the end of March (on highway). Both of those were driving. We seem to run about half and half in terms of drivers being killed while driving, and drivers killed while doing something with their trailers or brakes.

Please take the extra few seconds, guys, to ensure you fully set your brakes (not just the hand valve), watch your air lines, etc. Too many of us take shortcuts, or get complacent, and bad things happen. We want to hear *from* you, cantankerous as you may be sometimes, rather than *about* you in an obituary!

First "enviro-Trucks" roll into operation (excerpt from Canadian Transportation & Logistics)

The enviroTruck is a Class 7 or 8 heavy-duty vehicle, featuring a newer model diesel engine that reduces particulate matter by 90% and smog-forming nitrous oxide particles by 45%. Unique add-on features on an enviroTruck are expected to save fuel, and drive down emissions even further. These features may include: an auxiliary power unit that reduces idling time and is expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 13.5 tonne per truck per year; speed limiters to prevent the truck from going over a pre-set speed limit, thereby decreasing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; and aerodynamic improvements expected to result in an annual per truck and trailer reduction of 17.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.



According to Environment Minister Barry Penner, "These vehicles are impressive." If B.C. fleet operators transitioned just 100 older trucks to the new enviroTrucks, it would give us the same greenhouse gas emission reduction, as removing more than 10 times as many smog-producing cars from B.C. roads. By running enviroTrucks, a company may achieve up to 20% in increased fuel efficiency. *To move in that direction, Green Fleets BC is offering a financial incentive of up to \$10,000 a vehicle (tractor and trailer) and up to \$50,000 per*

fleet, to test-drive enviroTruck technologies." [italics mine]

The Green Fleets BC program has helped two B.C. companies transition a number of their vehicles to enviroTrucks. Glenncoe Transport from Kelowna, a division of Bison Transport, and Nanaimo-based Paradise Island Foods are now testing the technologies, and tracking cost savings that are linked to fuel efficiencies and the environmental benefits of moving to greener vehicles. The results of the enviroTruck project will be available at greenfleetsbc.com.

Over the next two years, Green Fleets B.C. initiatives are available and expected to help the transportation sector cut over 900 tonnes of smog-causing emissions and 200,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Fraser Basin Council

Editor's Note: *there could be an opportunity for piloting the first enviro-Truck log haulers. You never know unless you ask! Application form and contact info are available at http://greenfleetsbc.com/documents/AP_enviroTruck_June_26_2008.pdf*

Watch your fuel tanks! Time for locking fuel caps?

We got this note from George in Vernon

"I have heard tales of fuel being siphoned from trucks - this past week I found out this is very true. Some one helped themselves to 200 to 300 liters of fuel from the Pete, 200 liters at \$ 1.44 a liter is \$288 dollars of fuel. They siphoned the tanks nearly dry.

"The theft and loss of this fuel affects me in a way I never thought of before, it means you have to pay for the fuel that you no longer have and now there is less dollars for operating costs. It really makes you think"

George's note did make us think. So we did an internet search, "siphoning diesel", and "stealing diesel", and it's unbelievable how much of it is happening from trucks (even truck to truck sometimes at truck stops), construction sites, bus garages, fleet compounds... definitely time for locking fuel caps! And if you have a Tidy Tank, or above ground tank at your shop, you need to be especially aware. There is even a case before the courts in the US where a truck specially rigged with a vacuum system was caught stealing diesel from the underground tanks at a convenience store! There is also news coverage of truckers catching thieves in the act and taking matters into their own hands – not a recommended course of action. Now instead of the thief getting charged with theft under \$5000, the trucker is going to jail for aggravated assault. Theft is theft – call the police. What's really interesting is that the dates on the vast majority of these articles about stealing or siphoning diesel are dated within the past 5 months, as the cost of diesel has skyrocketed. It's tough enough for you out there without someone taking your operating capital literally out from under you. Investing in a locking fuel cap, or rigging up some kind of padlock locking system, will likely be well worth the cost.

A World of Their Own –Queen Charlotte Islands Loggers

This past week Forest TruckSafe took its message across the water to the Queen Charlottes, being part of the Canada Days weekend in Port Clements, and visiting with various loggers and contractors. We heard a mix of frustration and praise about everything from faller renewal and SAFE Companies to training, incident investigations, the state of logging in general, and of course the usuals around road maintenance, road construction etc.

The folks who operate on the Charlottes are a hardy, resilient, independent bunch, who love what they do and where they live. And what's not to love? It's incredibly beautiful. But also very dependent on the forest industry, and the slump shows. We arrived on the day Western Forest Products announced its shutdown for July, so the mood was sombre. They do have a tentative back-to-work date of August 5, but just like everywhere else, it'll depend on lumber prices. We saw a log barge being loaded and a pole milling operation – both fascinating operations. And it was so nice to see the lush green BIG trees instead of the sea of red and dead we're used to.

One theme that came up over and over on the Islands was drug & alcohol use – everything from the need for mandatory testing, to how the RCMP enforces drunk driving, to education for forest workers. We went through hundreds of breathalysers and drug identification booklets, and spent time in the mud bog beer gardens helping guys test themselves- an effort that was later lauded by the RCMP on scene.

Thanks to Mayor Cory Delves (who happens to work for Western) for inviting us over, and to all the great folks we met over there. We'll be back!

BC's big Trucking weekend – Big Rig Show in Chilliwack, Driving Championships in Abbotsford

If you just plain love trucks and truck driving, this weekend provided the ultimate experience. Saturday and Sunday at the Chilliwack Exhibition Grounds was the BC Big Rig Show 'n Shine, put on by Pro-Trucker Magazine. More than 120 rigs of all ages and categories were there. As well, several of the BC bands heading for next week's Merrit Mountain Music Fest played throughout the weekend. You know that saying, "rain or shine"? There was plenty of that too! And the drivers faithfully polished and wiped it all away, time after time. Congratulations to the logging truck category winners, Keith Roberts (Orval Roberts) from Spillimacheen, and Chester De Raspe (Swaile & Sons) Quesnel. For more information on winners and pictures go to www.pro-truckermagazine.com

Meanwhile, the Tradex in Abbotsford was the venue for the 2008 Truck Rodeo, the BC Truck Driving Championships, sponsored by the BC Trucking Association. Competitions include pre-trip inspections, a knowledge test, and of course, the driving course. The course is timed and consists of several obstacles as follows: Alley Dock, Offset Alley, Diminishing Clearance, Serpentine/Cloverleaf, Rear Scale, Right Hand Turn and Start/Stop Line. Watching the precision with which these guys drive was amazing. We were talking to the organizers about adding a logging truck category next year, so you guys can show them how it's really done! Congratulations to all the winners and organizers! Pictures and winners will be posted on www.bctruckrodeo.com

The written test was 120 random multiple choice questions on driving, and they cover a whole range of issues. Starting next Rumbings, we're going to put one or two into each issue as a challenge, a reminder or a refresher, whatever you want to call it. The Grand Champion Driver got a perfect score on his written test and pre-trip.

Road User Groups – how do they affect truckers?

Road User Groups, Road Use Committees, Road Safety Management Groups.... Whatever you call them, there seems to be an increased interest in them from regulators – how do they work? Where are they operating? What's the best model? Are they effective?

We'd like to hear from truckers – how do they affect you? Do you even know what they are or if there's one where you operate? Have you been consulted about the rules of the road or operating procedures in your area? Please drop us a quick note, or give us a call, to let us know what you think. We need to have information from actual users of these roads to bring forward to policy and decision makers.

Upcoming Events

Aug 3, 4	Vancouver Island Truck Show, Saanich
Oct 23, 24	Work Drug Free Conference, Prince George (BC Council on Substance Abuse)
Nov 1	Vancouver Island Safety Conference, Qualicum Beach

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

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