



RUMBLINGS

FOR SAFE ROADS, LOADS AND DRIVERS — ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE



BC Forest Safety Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

October 14, 2008----ISSUE 87

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.

BOBTAIL ROAD OVERPASS OPENS

Forests Minister Pat Bell officially opened the Bobtail Road overpass on October 7. The overpass crosses Hwy 16 approximately 50 kms west of Prince George. 15,000 or so logging trucks cross the highway a year at that location, as well as thousands of others which turn west or east. The Bobtail also sees heavy recreational and public use. Over the years there have been numerous crashes there as the traffic on the highway is moving at 100kmh. "I had two main reasons for supporting this project: first, safety and second, the economy" said Bell. "This overpass will dramatically improve the safety of our truck drivers and the travelling public. It also can be a bridge to future developments, in particular, bioenergy opportunities in the region."

"It's encouraging to see government paying attention to safety and taking concrete action to ensure safe passage for all users of those roads, industrial and public," said MaryAnne Arcand, director of the Forestry TruckSafe Program & Northern Initiatives. "It's also great to see local SAFE Certified contractors doing the work." The overpass work was done by CILA member contractor, Blackwater Construction. Congratulations to Terry O'Neill and his crew on a great job!

FOREST ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AROUND THE PROVINCE

In the past couple of weeks the Ministry of Forests has announce upgrades and improvements to several FSR's around the province:

- \$120,000 to replace bridges on the Finlay FSR near Mackenzie
- \$150,000 to improve safety on the Hill 60 FSR near Duncan
- \$390,000 upgrade to the Harrison East FSR, alongside Harrison Lake
- \$356,000 upgrade to improve safety on the Zeballos FSR on Vancouver Island

TWO IMPORTANT CONFERENCES COMING UP THIS MONTH

Work Drug Free BC 2008 (Formerly known as Action North) October 22-24th Prince George, BC

This conference provides an opportunity to learn more about the challenges of substance abuse in the workplace. Owners, managers, supervisors, labour leaders, occupational health and safety managers etc. will benefit from attending this conference. The BC Forest Safety Council is a platinum sponsor of this event. Key components to this year's conference include:

1. Liability issues for employers and employees
2. Myths and realities around addiction support groups

3. Young workers; drug trends; and the culture of silence
4. What a drug free workplace looks like
5. Drug testing issues and concerns

Speakers include Roger Harris, BC Forest Safety Ombudsman; MaryAnne Arcand, Director of Forestry TruckSafe; Dr. Brendan Adams, the “flying doc”, Dr. Michael O’Malley, and other experts.

For those of you planning on attending the BC Council on Substance Abuse’s Work Drug Free Conference, but still have not registered, please do so as the conference is fast approaching. For further information contact Teresa Bennett by phone at (250) 649-4000 or teresa@workdrugfreebc.com.

Vancouver Island Safety Conference

November 1, 2008 Qualicum, BC

“Human Factors - Why bad things happen to good people!”

Substance abuse, human factors, fatigue, technological changes and an aging workforce all contribute to injuries in the Pulp and Paper, Wood Products Manufacturing, Forestry and related Transportation sectors. To assist industry in meeting these challenges and to find new ways of helping workers and employers recognize wellness in industry, a steering committee made up of industry, union and WorkSafeBC representatives has planned a **free** one-day conference. Attending the 2008 Vancouver Island Safety Conference may also satisfy the eight hours of safety committee training requirement in the Workers’ Compensation Act part 135 Educational Leave.

“Human Factors - Why bad things happen to good people!” is a co-operative safety conference focusing on wellness from a personal perspective, a peer perspective and from a responsibility perspective. This conference will bring together health and safety committee co-chairs, safety representatives, employers, union representatives, policy makers, owner operators and industry leaders to discuss strategies on how to dramatically reduce and ultimately eliminate fatalities and serious injuries associated with human factors while on the job.

There is no cost for the conference, but you should register in advance, visc@bcforestsafe.org

WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

Much of the interior and the north saw its first skiff of snow this past week, a timely reminder to make sure you have your vehicle and driving habits ready for winter conditions: snow tires, winter windshield washer fluid, antifreeze, etc. Trucks in the interior are now required to carry chains, through to April 30. The chain requirements don’t apply to the Lower Mainland or Vancouver Island. To see the routes where chains are required go to www.drivebc.ca This is also a great website if you’re planning on travelling throughout the province, so you “know before you go” about conditions, closures, weather, etc.

And, as RCMP members everywhere will tell you, slow down and drive to conditions. It’s also “black ice” time, with night frosts and increased moisture. Give yourself extra time to get where you’re going. We want to hear from you, not about you!

MERGE VS YIELD

Several times in the past few weeks, someone has asked us to explain the difference between “merge” and “yield”, often because they’ve had near misses in that situation. So here’s the ‘quick ‘n dirty’ version:



Merge lanes are meant to allow traffic to merge safely together, as efficiently as possible. The lanes go on for a distance for that reason, to give two lanes time to sort into one. It's like shuffling a deck of cards. **As opposed to yield, merge** means that each vehicle takes a turn. Traffic **should** slow down to let you enter.

Yield means the **other drivers in the traffic lanes have the right of way**. An approaching motorist has to wait for a gap...a break...to appear in the flow of traffic before entering. A good way to remember this rule is **'Wait for the Break'**.

In traffic, "merge" refers to a type of movement, whereas "yield" refers to a legal obligation to yield right of way to traffic on another path. Some intersections have special yield lanes for vehicles turning right. To make a right

turn, move into this lane and wait until there is a break in the traffic to complete your turn. And if you're in a "merge" lane, don't stop.

"SHARING THE ROAD" RADIO CAMPAIGN BEGINS 3rd SEASON

As we go into the winter hauling season, Forestry TruckSafe is once again airing safety messages on commercial radio stations throughout the province. The messages reach over 1 million listeners, 5 days per week, and include tips on how to interact safely with big trucks, driving in winter conditions, avoiding wildlife collisions, etc. If you have a concern or issue you see on the roads that you believe public drivers need to be told about, give us a call or send us an email and we'll develop a safety message around it.

ARCAND RECOGNIZED FOR WORK ON ROAD SAFETY

The North Central Municipal Association has nominated MaryAnne Arcand for her work on road safety, both with Forestry TruckSafe and as coordinator of the RoadHealth coalition. NCMA President Murry Krause stated, "On behalf of the NCMA Executive and all NCMA Members, it is a privilege to nominate Mary Anne for this prestigious award. She is recognized throughout the province, particularly in Northern BC, as a tireless and dedicated individual who is trying to make a difference in the lives of every British Columbian through her commitment to improve road safety." Awards will be presented November 26.

Last week, MaryAnne also received the "Woman of the Year – Influence and Impact" award for Northern BC, again for her work with Forestry TruckSafe and RoadHealth.

YOUR VOICE

To whom this may concern

I was heading onto the Pelican Oct.01/ 08 to get fire wood and nearly had a head on collision with a forest company pick-up truck travelling way above the posted speed and using the wrong side of the road at the 10km corner.

Do they not realize that both sides of the road do not belong to them? Throw those radio's in the bush and drive expecting the unexpected, drive defensively, eyes on the road, hands are on the wheel! Not all of us have radio's.

Keep Right except to pass, slow down so as to STAY on their own side of the road and use a little common sense and courtesy and slow down both ways for oncoming traffic.

These are not off high-way race roads, these are our public roads and should be driven and enforced as such! You have obviously seen what happens when two vehicles meet in the middle of a road at the crest of a hill or cross over to the wrong side on corners? Most times it does not end well for any-one. MT

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 22-24	Work Drug Free BC Conference, Prince George
November 1	Vancouver Island Safety Conference, Qualicum
November 19-21	BC Injury Prevention Conference, Vancouver
January 13-16	Truck Loggers Convention, Vancouver
January 23, 24	Natural Resources Forum, Prince George
February 4 -6	Western Silviculture Contractors Conference, Victoria

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

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

