



RUMBLINGS

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



BC **Forest Safety** Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

November 7, 2008----ISSUE 8

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.

LEST WE FORGET

Tuesday is Remembrance Day, the one day every year that we pay special tribute to those who died in service to their country. We remember these brave men and women for their courage and their devotion to ideals. We wear poppies, attend ceremonies, and visit memorials. For one brief moment of our life, we remember why we must work for peace every day of the year.

While most of the focus is on wars past, we must also remember the thousands that are still serving, in Afghanistan and other areas of the world. Take a moment to think about them as well.

Let's also remember the ones we have lost here at home in our industry this year. Their families and friends grieve too. And for that same moment, we need to remember why we must work for safety every day of the year.

TWO SILVICULTURE WORKERS KILLED NEAR BELLA BELLA IN BOATING INCIDENT

A crew boat transporting seven silviculture workers travelling in the Burke Channel southeast of Bella Bella ran into trouble last week Thursday when the bow gate opened, and the boat began taking on water. Details are still being confirmed, but reports say that several workers ended up in the water. One made it back to the boat, which the crew then managed to beach, but two did not. Our hearts go out to their families, friends and co-workers. Their deaths bring this year's total fatalities to 21: 8 hand fallers, 8 travelling to and from work (1 vehicle, 5 plane and 2 boat), 3 log haulers and 2 others (one struck by a log, one drowning).

FIRST WINTER SNOW STORM HITS INTERIOR – AND PEOPLE ARE STILL DRIVING WITHOUT SNOW TIRES!

Yesterday's snow storm resulted in all kinds of incidents and crashes on interior highways and roads, as maintenance crews and the public tried to get a grip on the first storm of the winter. A quick look at www.DriveBC.ca showed more than 40 road condition alerts for snow and/or slippery sections. All through the interior, from Terrace east to the Rockies, and down through the Cariboo, Okanagan and Kootenays, police were asking motorists to stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary. Numerous crashes were reported in all regions, as people continue to drive too fast for conditions and without snow tires. Truckers were forced to chain up in many areas. In others, hills were closed as trucks spun out.

This is our first real reminder that it's time to put your snow tires on, put weight in the back of your pickup, and start driving according to conditions. All-season radials just don't do the job in areas where there's snow most of

the winter. Drive with your headlights on, as it is dark earlier, and make sure your windshield washer reservoir is full. Watch for black ice and slippery conditions. And be alert – November is typically the worst month for wildlife crashes, especially with moose. www.DriveBC.ca is currently showing 22 wildlife alerts, and identifies particular sections of highway around the province that are known hot-spots for wildlife crashes. These few tips can help you and those you share the road with safe while travelling, instead of keeping the tow trucks and body shops busy. ICBC's Dial-a-claim line is going to be swamped today!

LOGGING ROADS USED AS AN ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR PUBLIC NEAR SUMMERLAND

Highway 97 is closed north of Summerland, cutting off the usual route from Penticton to Kelowna, due to a huge fissure in a rock face that threatens to send 300,000 cubic metres of rock down onto the highway. As a result, a series of logging roads are being utilized as an alternate route. According to our sources in the Okanagan Forest District, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is working closely with the Ministry of Forests to upgrade and monitor the FSR's in question, and diverting the logging trucks and other heavy trucks to different routes in order to keep the interface between public and industry traffic to a minimum. Weight restrictions have been imposed on the Okanagan Falls/201 FSR. Here's what we knew as of Oct 31:

1. Okanagan Falls/ 201 FSR

- o Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MOTI) designated alternate route;
- o All permanent signage in place, road well graded and being maintained regularly;
- o Road now limited to 27,000kg, no freight trucks;
- o Highways trucks patrolling for this three times per day, and;
- o RCMP now patrolling road.

2. Gillard FSR/ Chute Lake Road (MOT is actively discouraging public use)

- o Not a sanctioned public alternative;
- o Gillard had been graded two weeks ago, but now too rough for many 2WD vehicles;
- o Signage is up listing hazards, showing maps to primary alternate route;
- o MFR to provide two trucks and staff for Thursday to Monday for presence;
- o Staff to watch for hazards and provide information to travelers,

3. Peachland/ Trout Lake FSRs (MOT is actively discouraging public use of these roads)

- o Not a sanctioned public alternative;
- o Road is quickly breaking down on public road portions leading to FSRs;
- o All industrial logging traffic has voluntarily stopped using the road;
- o Public advisory signage has been put up;
- o MFR to provide two trucks and staff Thursday to Monday for presence, safety
- o Staff to watch for hazards and provide information to travelers;
- o Snow is expected, so staff are prepared to advise closure of the road to the public;
- o RCMP prepared to assist and Highways road contractors on standby to put up barriers and man posts 24hrs, and;
- o Highways has said they will not maintain two routes.

It is now our understanding that Weyerhaeuser will be hauling a small amount down the 201 from a block near Hydraulic Lake, and that there is snow in the area. We can't encourage people enough to slow down, make sure they are prepared for winter driving (snow tires, etc), and to be patient. It will likely be several weeks before the highway is open again.

We got the following emails from truckers working in the area on what they're seeing and how it's affecting them:

Hi Maryann,

As you probably heard Highway 97 is closed north of Summerland. There are several ways to get around this closure and they are recommending that the public use the 201 FSR. I was going to sneak off down to Penticton on the 201 FSR with the truck but I was told that trucks heavier than 27,000 kg could not use the 201 FSR. No trucks are allowed on the 201 FSR. at all

Well as luck would have it, you would never guess what road we're hauling gravel to bring it up to snuff, -- Yes the 201 FSR

Maryann I can see why they are not allowing any trucks on the 201 FSR. The way some of the drivers drive WOW what a sight to be seen and a wake up call! The sad part is that these impatient morons think they are doing nothing wrong. The CVSE are out there doing there part policing the 201 FSR the best they can. In my 30 years of driving this is the worst that I have seen. GS



MaryAnne
Now that 97 is closed the area logging roads are seeing much more volume. I understand that the 201 is the recommended route but people will try to take the shortest route to save time and fuel. A quick risk assessment considering this volume of traffic: very likely to have accidents, very likely to have serious injuries at these accidents. This will no doubt increase with snow as I have heard there have already been incidents.

Safety is primary concern to reopen 97 but not so on the logging roads. The Chute Lake and the Peachland Trout roads need attention asap. They need maintenance and temporary signage for speed, corners, hills and narrow areas. Perhaps the Forestry C and E could help by monitoring these roads or inform users of new hazards. Maintenance on these roads would also increase response time of Emergency Vehicles that will be called out. The 201 can still be the recommended route but if the volume of traffic from the other forest roads were added to the 201 it would be too congested and more dangerous.

We have been asked to keep our logging trucks off of these logging roads forcing them to travel even farther burning an extra 50 litres of diesel a day. That doubles our fuel costs when compared to using 97. I don't know why the Forestry has asked the logging trucks to keep off these logging roads but I am complying. A proactive approach is a must, it will save lives. TL

VANCOUVER ISLAND SAFETY CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS

Last Saturday's event in Qualicum was attended by almost 300 participants from all aspects of the coast forest industry. Reynold Hert, CEO of Western, opened the conference with an inspiring speech about personal safety ethics and habits, and each of us taking responsibility for our own safety and that of those around us.

- Three information sessions were presented three times each in order to allow participants to take them all in:
„h *Redefining Impairment* - MaryAnn Arcand, BCFSC
„h *Identifying Hazards / Assessing Risk : Keys to Success* – Ross Munro, WFP EHS Advisor
„h *Under the Surface: Incident Root Causes* – Michael Duff, WorkSafeBC

All three sessions will be available in streaming video from WorkSafeBC's website in a month or so, and are well worth watching.

Steve Mueller and Bert Painter shared a conversation on personal responsibility, and Al Lundgren finished the day with his views on how to work safely. Al is retired from a long, successful safe career as a faller.

Hats off to the organizing committee for a job well done!

BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL AWARDS PRESENTED

Nanaimo, B.C. – (November 3, 2008) – The BC Forest Safety Council has recognized two of its associates for their outstanding commitment and dedication to advancing safety in BC's forests. Council Safety Advocate **John Gooding** has been awarded the **Safety Leader of the Year Award** and trainer **Steve Telosky** is the recipient of the **Cary White Memorial Award for Commitment to Safety Excellence**. This is the inaugural year for the awards and both were given out on Friday at the Council's Appreciation Day for their professional associates.

The Council's Safety Leader of the Year Award is given to an individual or group in recognition for advancing forest safety in BC through delivering or developing new standards, training, systems, tools or other methods for improving safety practices. Gooding was selected from more than 50 Council trainers, auditors, advocates and other associates who work with the Council to deliver safety training, information and mentoring on the ground to workers and companies.

The Cary White Memorial Award for Commitment to Safety Excellence is given to an individual or company who demonstrates an unwavering commitment to improving awareness, expanding safety knowledge and developing safety skills on the ground in the forest sector. Above all else, this individual helps to build a lasting culture of safety for every worker in the industry.

Cary White award winner Steve Telosky has been involved with the Council from the very beginning. He has personally trained more than 100 new fallers throughout BC and has played an integral part in developing and maintaining the faller training standards.

The Cary White award was created in honour of one of the Council's first Forest Safety Advocates who passed away earlier this year. With more than 30 years experience in the industry, White was an individual often described as someone who had forestry and the safety of workers in his blood.

Congratulations John and Steve! It's commitment like yours that is making a difference out there for all of us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
February 26-27	ExpoFor, ABCFP Conference, Prince George

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 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

Copyright 2008