BC **Forest Safety** Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

P&D Logging Ltd.
Kelowna BC

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Close Call

Location: Boundary/Kootenay

Date of Incident: Sept. 19, 2008

Details of Incident: A forestry consultant entered a resource road. He had used this road several times recently. He called "0 up, anyone close" on the frequency posted at 0 km and hearing no response proceeded up the road calling every 5 km and at "must call" locations.
Part way up the road he unexpectedly met a loaded logging truck. It was hunting season so the log truck driver was driving as if he would meet private vehicles at any time and a collision was avoided.
The investigation revealed that the logging contractor had just returned to work on this road. The company had worked for a local Licensee for years on this road. The Licensee had recently shut down, responsibility for the road had altered and the Ministry of Forests changed the road frequency on this system. When the logging trucks arrived to start hauling some of them didn't have the new frequency in their radios. As no other contractors were working on the road system the supervisor told them to work on the old frequency they all had and informed the Ministry of Forests and BCTS reps. He didn't realize the sign at 0 km still showed the new frequency. After this close call he immediately changed the sign to the current working frequency.

Recommended Preventative Actions:
Contractors and workers should be aware that current industry conditions are leading to changes in responsibilities and worksite practices. Long time procedures, including radio frequencies in use, may be altered unexpectedly.
1. Pre-works for everyone including road users are very important. One of the topics must be the road frequency to be used.
2. Signs at the bottom of roads must be accurate regarding the frequency in use.
3. All road users should be informed about any changes in frequency with enough lead time to make required changes.

For more information, please call:
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