BC **Forest Safety** Council

Vehicles & Roads

Safety Alert Type:
Vehicles and Roads

Location: BC

Date of Incident: 2008-05-30
Company Name: BC Forest Safety Council

Details of Incident:

Resource road users are facing an overlap of silviculture activities and log harvesting activities due to a late spring start. This means that the tree planters are still very active in the forests while the loggers are getting started on their summer hauling season. Add to this the arrival of recreational users on those same roads and awareness and caution is required from everyone.

Be Aware!

This alert is to remind all loggers, whether harvesting crews, support services, or log haulers, that the tree planters will be on the logging roads with you. Be mindful that that these drivers are often young, inexperienced in resource road driving, new to the area, and sharing the road with trucks. Guide your actions accordingly, and expect the unexpected.

To the tree planting and silviculture crews, log trucks are starting to haul in various areas of the province. You need to be aware that you are always sharing the road.

And to all forest industry road users, a reminder that it is also tourist season. Please be an example to non-industry users about sharing the road.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

Remember the simple rules of the road, wherever and whoever you are:

1. Wear your seatbelt! Whether you are driving a pickup or a loaded log truck wearing your seatbelt dramatically reduces your chance of being killed or injured if you are involved in an accident
2. Loaded trucks have the right of way; you must clear them
3. Stay on your own side of the road
4. Observe posted speed limits. In the absence of a posted speed, the default is 70 kms per hour.
5. Obey all traffic control signs
6. Make sure you are on the right radio frequency at all times
7. Call your kilometres according to the rules on that road
8. Keep your headlights and taillights clean and on at all times
9. Do not pass a logging truck unless it gives you a signal that it's safe to do so (radio communication, flashes lights, etc)

These rules of the road are not mere suggestions – they are, in fact, regulations from WorkSafeBC, the Motor Vehicle Act, the Forest and Range Act, and as such, are ticketable offences.

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