



## Resource Road Safety video targets both industry and recreational users

A new resource road safety video has recently been released showcasing the importance of using resource roads safely. With over 620,000 kms of resource roads across BC used by both industry and recreational users, resource road incidents continue to occur causing great concern for both industrial and public users.

The 10-minute Resource Road Safety video - *Work Here, Play Here, Stay Safe Here* features Gord Judson, a 45-year veteran log truck driver, discussing his personal account involving a tragic incident with a recreational road user on his way to fish for the day. His moving and impactful narrative provides invaluable insight into the potential hazards related to driving on resource roads. Judson's narrative transitions from his heart-wrenching

experience to highlighting the safety measures required for driving safely on resource roads and provides step-by-step instructions to aid users in reaching their destination safely.

The video was produced by the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) in partnership with Mosaic Forest Management, Coastal GasLink, the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, West Fraser Timber, Interfor, Conifex, Sinclair Group, Weyerhaeuser, Gorman Bros, Canfor, Tolko, and professional off-road driver training company, Overlanding Training Canada, as a collective message to the public to ensure resource road users understand and follow resource road safety rules.



BCFSC Resource Road Orientation Video

Welcome to the Summer edition of Forest Safety News, covering news about safety topics in forestry. This is YOUR safety newsletter. We look forward to your input and feedback! Email the editor at [editor@bcforestsafes.org](mailto:editor@bcforestsafes.org) or call 1-877-741-1060.

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Travelling on resource roads can pose various risks and though there may not be active logging in the area, other industrial users such as oil & mining exploration, silviculture and forest management may be using these roads. All resource road users should exercise caution and expect the unexpected.

View the Resource Road Safety - *Work Here, Play Here, Stay Safe Here* video on YouTube.

### Learn More - Resource Road Safety Resources

- [BCFSC Resource Road Safety](#)
- [Government of BC – Resource Road Safety](#)
- [Overlanding Training Canada](#) 🌲



## What's New

Here is the latest on what we have to offer since March 2021. Find direct links to safety alerts, industry-specific resources, industry information and more to download and/or share with employees, industry and safety peers. And make sure to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with the latest news. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel.

**Resource Road Safety Video** – As summer approaches and traffic increases on resource roads across BC, this video will help keep drivers safe when using resource roads for work or play.

**Worker Training and Assessment** – Each forestry occupation requires different knowledge and skillsets to safely perform the job at hand. BCFSC worked with industry to develop competency-based standards, training and assessment tools for specific harvesting activities to help employers evaluate workers and complete on-the-job training.

**Tree Planter Danger Tree Awareness Training** – This free interactive online training course is available to help tree planters recognize danger trees and better understand what to do when working near potential danger trees in their work areas.

**Training Calendar** – Our 2021 Training Calendar offers both in-classroom (with COVID-19 safety protocols in place) and online courses.

**Healthy Worker Series** – Get our free posters, crew talks and backgrounders on our latest topics focussing on obesity and mental health and help encourage workers to maximize their health at work and at home.

**Industry Lost Time Injury Fact Sheets** – The BCFSC has developed fact sheets specific to each CU we represent featuring statistics relating to lost-time injury claims from 2015-2019.

**Safety Alerts** – Alerts provide timely information on incidents and issues which cause, or result in, serious or fatal injuries. The alerts we send by email and post on our website are intended to raise awareness and educate industry so we can learn from each other's experience and effort. Here are the latest alerts from BCFSC and industry.

- **BCFSC Safety Alert of the Month** - Heavy Equipment Operation on Wildfires
- **Manufacturing Weekly Safety Alert** – click on the link to see the latest weekly alert
- **WPAC Safety Alert** – Explosion at Wood Pellets Receiving Port

## Industry Links

**Wood Pellet Association of Canada Safety Committee** – New webpage launched with links to safety resources, videos, fact sheets and more.

**WorkSafeBC Announcements** – check here for the latest information on WorkSafeBC policy and regulation updates, resource development, risk advisories and more.

**WorkSafeBC Enews** – Subscribe to Insight; WorkSafeBC's policy, regulation and research division e-Newsletter, Health and Safety Enews, Young Worker Enews and more. 📧

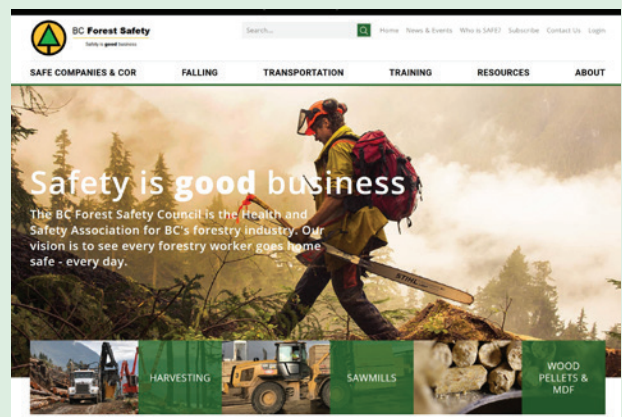
To subscribe to our safety alert emails – [Click Here](#) ➡



## BCFSC has a new website

By Michele Fry, Director, Communications

On April 13, the BCFSC unveiled our new website with an updated look. The new site was developed to provide for a better user experience with simple navigation throughout the site. The home page offers easy access to sector-based industry information on harvesting, sawmills and wood pellets/MDF, as well as direct access to Safety Alerts, Quick Links to key sections used by industry such as COVID-19 information, online audit submission, the BCFSC training calendar and more. There is also a quick link to our downloadable resource section that offers a filterable search function to help find documents, resource packages, crew talks, etc. You will also find access to SAFE Companies information, the latest news and real-time posts from our social media feeds from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Each program area from SAFE Companies, Falling, Transportation and Training has its own section accessible from the top navigation banner where you will also find our resource link and information About the BCFSC with the latest reports and industry statistics.



If you haven't done so already, check out the site at [www.bcforestsafesite.org](http://www.bcforestsafesite.org) or watch our guided video tour on our [YouTube](#) channel. 📺





## Shortened spring break-up and increased road traffic - a cause for concern

With winter weather behind us, more and more vehicles are heading out on the highways and resource roads for work and play. With over 620,000kms of resource roads across BC, these roads are travelled by many types of vehicles from large heavy-loaded logging trucks to industrial pipeline vehicles to pickup trucks carrying tree planters to blocks and vacationers, many without radios, heading out in RV's for some weekend fun.

Resource roads are typically not built or maintained to public roadway standards and pose various risks for all users requiring drivers to exercise caution at all times but also have the necessary knowledge and ability to safely navigate these roads.

With recent market conditions, the high-demand for wood fibre is generating unseasonal logging activities and with it, an increase of forestry vehicles on resource roads - not to mention the spike in traffic

from pipeline construction in central and northern BC. These factors combined with the BC tree-planting season in full swing and RV sales hitting an all-time high are creating higher risks for potential incidents to occur.

Mike Pottinger, BCFSC Safety Advisor for the North Coast and Central Interior, has been talking with several contractors, operators and stakeholders and has received a great deal feedback about increased traffic on resource roads causing upset conditions. *"This major increase in vehicle traffic is an important factor to consider for companies sending workers out on these roads but also for the public when planning a trip. The new [Resource Road Safety video](#) is very timely and is an excellent awareness tool to help the public understand the dangers of driving on resource roads and what they need to do to help avoid collisions with other vehicles."*

*"But spring weather conditions can also create many other hazards including wash-outs, potholes, blowdown, and wildlife." He cautions, "Add to that a short timeline for contractors to get trucks, equipment and crew ready for another busy season and it becomes vital this important message gets across to everyone travelling on these roads. Drivers need to be extra vigilant to ensure they reach their destination safely. So plan your day and allow for extra time to get to and from work. All drivers need to be aware of fatigue, have their head on a swivel, not be distracted and communicate hazards with other road users to help ensure everyone makes it home safe at the end of the day."*

The BCFSC has tools to help drivers prepare themselves with the skills and knowledge they need to travel safely on resource roads. Our dedicated [Resource Road Safety](#) section on our website provides information on public use of resource roads, radio communication, safety tips, driver training and more. 🚧



# The 2021 planting season is underway

With planting season underway, silviculture workers are back at camp manoeuvring through another season of pandemic challenges. But with last year's record number of 300 million seedlings planted and not one case of COVID-19 among them, BC planters are taking their knowledge and experience learned from 2020 and driving forward to another successful season for 2021.

Last year, industry waited with bated breath wondering if the season would get the green light from the province to forge ahead. After careful planning and implementation of provincial health guidelines, tree planting companies and workers headed out across the province after a late start and worked diligently to ensure their communities stayed safe while managing to have their best planting season ever.

The camaraderie and dedication of each person in the planting community kept them all safe in 2020 and has allowed the 2021 season to start without delay. Building on the lessons learned from last year, revised [Industrial Camp Guidelines](#) were updated April 13, 2021 to help mitigate further risk of COVID-19 infection and exposure for workers living in communal sites. With a renewed commitment from industry, companies and workers are following these revised COVID-19 protocols to help maximize health and safety for all.

John Betts, Executive Director of the Western Forestry Contractor's Association shares his insights for the 2021 planting season. *"Last year our efforts succeeded in keeping the virus out of our camps and crews. This year, given the*



*prevalence of COVID-19 infections and the new variants, our task will be to once again use all our protocols to help keep infections out while at the same time containing any spread that might make it past our screening processes. Even with the higher risk, we have the means and the collective will to manage COVID successfully."*

Outside of pandemic challenges, tree planters are also at risk of wildlife encounters, ticks, MSI's and more. In addition to COVID-19 resources, the BCFSC has many tools available for employers and workers to help support worksite and worker safety while out on the block. Take a look at the silviculture materials and share them with your crews to make 2021 another incredible season for all.

[Danger Tree Awareness – Free Online Training](#)

[Resource Road Safety](#)

[Silviculture Safety Resources](#)

[Fit to Plant](#)

[WorkSafeBC Silviculture Resources](#) 🌲

## Blasting regulations to be updated

WorkSafeBC has completed a review of the OHS Regulation Part 21: Blasting Operation and updates to the regulation are planned for this fall. Industry feedback has been received as part of this process and is considered when the regulations are updated.

One of the expected changes is to require professional development training for certified blasters and people who are training to become certified. BCFSC is working with blasting experts, explosive manufacturers and WorkSafeBC to develop online training to help forestry blasters meet the new requirements. As more information becomes available, BCFSC will provide updates in Forest Safety News and on our social media channels. 🚧

