**INTRODUCTION**

Driving on haul roads can be a hazardous, and sometimes a challenging experience.

The road surface is ever changing and cannot be compared to driving on a paved road.

The road is often narrow.

The shoulders can be soft and unpredictable.

Oncoming traffic can range from small passenger vehicles to very large and wide loads.

Wildlife cross the road without warning.

ATV’s and snowmobiles drive on or cross the road surface without warning.

Dusty conditions can limit your ability to see oncoming traffic or wildlife.

Public road users are not necessarily accustomed to operating on haul roads.

**These and other hazards can result in serious injury or death if they are not respected.**

**CERTIFIED TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

* Class 5 (of higher) Driver’s License – Required
* Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) – Required when transporting controlled products in bulk.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

* Hi-vis hardhat – required outside of vehicle in operational environments.
* Gloves – Required changing a tire, boosting batter
* Hi Vis Vest - **required outside of vehicle on active haul roads.**
* Eye Protection – Recommended

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT SUMMARY**

* Fire Extinguisher - Required
* Level 1 First Aid Kit- Required
* Seatbelt – Required
* Communication Device - Required
* SPOT/InReach – Required

**DRIVING IN DUSTY CONDITIONS**

Haul roads are often very dusty. This dust can create serious visibility problems causing motorists to hit one another or to hit parked or slow moving vehicles.

Increase following distances.

Keep headlights on at all times.

Keep tail lights clean.

Close windows and use air conditioning to manage temperature (if equipped).

Never pass a leading vehicle when you cannot see clearly.

Slow down and let the slow vehicle move further away from you so you are not driving in their dust, or contact the operator by radio and ask if they would slow, pull to the side and advise you when it would be safe to pass.

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| ***If you must park off of a dusty road, position your vehicle well clear of traffic.*** |

**SAFE DRIVING RULES**

All forestry drivers are required to follow the principles outlined below.

1. All radio-assisted roads have radio frequency signs posted at the beginning of the road network. All industrial traffic must effectively monitor the posted frequency.
2. Company Permitted roads are also public roads and public use can occur at any time. The Permitted roads are “Radio Assisted”, meaning two-way radios are to be used only to assist in traffic control.
3. Radio use on the designated traffic channel is primarily for calling kilometers for traffic control or emergency use only – no unnecessary chatter.
4. All traffic entering, stopping on, leaving, or re-entering a haul road (up or down) must advise of status and location.
5. All traffic traveling up a road (increasing km signs) are to follow the rules of that particular road.
6. All traffic traveling down a road (decreasing km signs) are to follow the rules of that particular road.
7. Lowbeds and road maintenance equipment are exempt from running silent and may call at their discretion.
8. Do not depend on radios – drive at speeds and in a manner consistent with non-radio assisted roads.
9. If you think your radio transmission has been blocked, repeat you message or ask for confirmation from another vehicle.
10. The operator must drive at a safe speed and in such a manner that complete control is maintained at all times. Be a defensive driver.
11. Drive according to the existing road conditions. Watch out for soft shoulders, potholes, craters, and washboard.
12. Safe and proper gears must be used when descending or ascending hills.

**SAFE DRIVING RULES CONT**

1. Vehicles must be parked in a safe position, with clear access to town at all times (downhill or accessible for jump starting), and allow for passage of all industrial traffic.
2. Seatbelts must be worn.
3. When driving on public roadways all drivers must abide by the posted speed limit and the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

**PASSING VEHICLES AND/OR EQUIPMENT – SAME DIRECTION**

Passing a vehicle that is traveling in the same direction can be very hazardous on a haul road. Passing is not encouraged, unless the vehicle that you are passing is stopped or nearly stopped and pulled over toward the side of the road.

**PASSING**

Never pass while going around a corner, always ensure good visibility.

Radio the vehicle that you intend to pass, and only pass them if they signal you that it is safe to do so.

Ask them to slow, pull to the side and advise you about the road and traffic conditions in front of them.

Pass when the vehicle has slowed, pulled over and conditions are clear.

**BEING PASSED**

Slow down and pull over when being passed.

**PASSING VEHICLES AND/OR EQUIPMENT – OPPOSING DIRECTION**

Vehicles passing in the opposite direction can lose control or kick up dangerously large rocks.

**AVOID VEHICLE CONTACT**

Slow down when approaching oncoming vehicles or equipment.

Make room for oncoming vehicles by pulling toward the shoulder (particularly on narrow roads).

Slow right down if the road is at all rough or could have loose gravel/rocks.

On narrow haul roads, empty vehicles or equipment shall yield the right of way to the loaded vehicles or equipment. Get out of the way.

**DRIVING DURING SPRING BREAK-UP OR WINTER CONDITIONS**

Driving during spring breakup can be very hazardous.

**ROUGH CONDITIONS**

It is recommended that only suitably equipped 4X4 pickup trucks travel on haul roads during spring break-up.

**FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE ROAD**

Take it extra slow your first time on any haul road each spring. There are often major road hazards that can cause you to lose control or damage your vehicle.

Be alert and have the utmost respect for the changing road conditions.

**COMMUNICATE**

Warn others of challenges and hazards that you have encountered – it may just save a person from being involved in an incident.

**APPROACHING ROAD HAZARDS**

Approach potholes slowly as it is often difficult to tell how deep they are until it is too late.

Avoid large ruts that could cause your vehicle to get hung up or sustain undercarriage damage.

**PARKING AT THE REMOTE WORKSITE**

**WORKSITE PARKING**

If there are other people in the work area, and you are not sure where it is safe to park, please ask the people onsite.

When parking on the side of a road, position the vehicle so that it will have a minimal impact on passing vehicles. Watch for soft and/or steep shoulders.

Park the vehicle “facing out” so that any emergency response requiring leaving the site can be done quickly.

If parking on a slope, place the vehicle in park, put on the parking brake, exit the vehicle and place wheel chocks, or other sutiable devices (rocks) under tires to prevent the vehicle from rolling away in the event the parking brake fails.