



TAG

SAFETY ALERT

Vehicle Collision – Poor Visibility

Description of the Event

Two pickup trucks loaded with ATVs were travelling down a mainline at the end of the day. As the first truck came over the crest of the hill, the driver slammed on the brakes as they saw a large depression in the road. The truck hit the depression and then slowed down to assess if straps for the loaded ATVs had loosened from the impact. There was no safe place for the first truck to pull over. The second truck was following closely, behind, the first one. As the second driver came over the crest of the hill, they could see the first truck's brake lights through the thick dust, but they were unable to stop before rear ending the first truck. The second truck's driver cut his hand when the windshield glass blew out.



Contributing Factors

Human Factor – the second driver was following too closely to the first truck.

Human Factor -No signage or information indicating there was a large dip in the road

Environmental/Weather Conditions – Poor visibility due to dust

Environmental/Weather Conditions – Road maintenance work created increased dust and a large depression in the mainline

Environmental/Weather Conditions – A hill on a narrow road with limited wide spots for vehicles to pull over

System Factor – Extra weight in both trucks from ATVs in box affected braking on downhill slope

Suggested Actions

- Reduce speed and follow behind vehicles at a safe distance
- Assess the risk of road conditions. Use signage or other communications methods to ensure road users are made aware of hazardous road conditions
- If visibility is limited, reduce speed and look for a wide spot to pull over and wait until visibility improves
- When pulling over or stopping communicate via radio to other road users



BC Forest Safety

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