



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION

VHF Radio Best Practices

AOM: 2021-07-09

Using a VHF radio is a common and essential activity for many forestry workers. Calling kilometres (kms) on resource roads, communicating with other operators or drivers and coordinating activities between field crews are just a few examples. There are many requirements and rules in place to keep the radio communication system operating effectively. It is very important for industry and the public to understand and abide by the following best practices and legal requirements.



- Resource roads have specific rules and radio calling procedures to help improve the safety of all road users. The *Radio Use and Road Calling Procedures* video link below provides an excellent reference for forest service and resource road users.
- Read the information signs at the start of resource roads or talk with an experienced road user to learn the rules and correct radio frequencies to use.
- Commercial users and the general public should have radios installed, programmed and licensed by a qualified radio technician and include the full standard bank of Resource Road (RR) channels. **Your local radio shop is your best source of information on radio requirements and the channels used in your local area.**
- Radio use, including the use of mobile radios, is administered and licensed by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). The ISED has an ongoing role in monitoring the use of radio spectrum RR Channels. Mobile radios require licenses which can be obtained through commercial radio shops.
- Inexpensive, self-programmable radios are now commonly available. Amateur radios and other non-certified radio equipment are not approved for calling KM's on RR channels. These types of radios are not legal for commercial use in Canada and should not be programmed with any commercial channels (such as Lad or RR) because:



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
 Central BC: 2666 Queensway, Prince George, BC, V2L 1N2
 Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafe.org



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

- They do not meet the applicable technical standards.
 - They may not have the appropriate range for communicating with oncoming vehicles.
 - Poor quality of components and construction may cause performance and reliability issues.
- Non-commercial vehicles can be issued a radio license for RR channels; however, they must use standard commercial radio equipment that is certified for this use.

Additional Resources

- **Video:** [Radio Use and Road Calling Procedures](#)
- **Webpage:** BCFSC - [Resource Road Safety](#)
- **Webpage:** Four Wheel Drive Association of BC - [Backcountry Communications](#)
- **Webpage:** BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development - [Resource Road Safety](#)

BCFSC Bulletin - News and Updates

Starting with the July 2021 Monthly Safety Alert, BCFSC will be providing additional information for Safety Alert subscribers to keep them informed of the latest news, resources and upcoming training from BCFSC.

BCFSC Latest News & Resources

[Communicable Disease Prevention](#) - as of July 1st, 2021, the BC Provincial Health Officer confirmed employers can move to Step 3 of the BC Restart Plan. Employers can now shift away from COVID-19 Safety Plans and develop communicable disease plans. Learn more about transitioning from COVID-19 Safety Plans to Communicable Disease Prevention

[Fibre Pile Management](#) – the latest safety initiative from WPAC focuses on Fibre Pile Management. Learn more about best practices on the safe handling and storage wood fibre to help reduce the risk of spontaneous ignition.

[BCFSC Crew Talks](#) – each week BCFSC shares a new Crew Talk to help support safety meetings. There are over 50 crew talks to choose from.

[Healthy Worker Resources](#) – BCSFC has developed a series of posters, crew talks and backgrounders to help workers learn simple steps to improve their health.



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
Central BC: 2666 Queensway, Prince George, BC, V2L 1N2
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafesafe.org



SAFETY ALERT & BULLETIN OF THE MONTH

BCFSC Training:

Upcoming Classroom Training

September 23 - 24 | [Forest Supervisor Training – Due Diligence – Prince George](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

September 30 | [Small Employer OHS Refresher Training – Prince George](#)

This course provides a refresher for ISEBASE/SEBASE internal auditors. It is a requirement for eligibility for the WorkSafeBC Certificate of Recognition (COR) program and must be taken within 3 years of the last successful audit.

September 30 | [Forest Supervisor Training – Due Diligence – Campbell River](#)

This two-day classroom workshop will equip supervisors with knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

September 30 | [Small Employer OHS Training – Prince George](#)

This two-day course is about occupational health and safety for small employers working in the forest sector. Participants should be active in their company's business operations and have knowledge of their safety program, as they will become the company's internal auditor and submit their company's audit.

October 5-8 | [BASE Internal Auditor Training – Online](#)

This course is about occupational health and safety for large employers working in the forest sector. Participants should be active in their company's business operations and have knowledge of their safety program, as they will become the company's internal auditor and conduct their company's audit.

Refer to the [Training section of our website](#) for more information on upcoming classroom training and costs.

Online Training

BCFSC offers a wide selection of free online training courses: Basic Forest Worker, Phase Congestion, Professional Industry Driver, Resource Road Driver, Serious Incident Investigation and more. Click here to self-enroll: [Online Learning Centre – BC Forest Safety Council](#)

Worker Assessment and Training

Each forestry occupation requires different knowledge and skillsets to perform the job at hand. BCFSC worked with industry to develop competency-based standards, training and assessment tools to help employers evaluate workers and complete on-the-job training.

Check out our [FREE online training and assessment forms](#) for Basic Forest Workers, Yarding, Mechanized Harvesting and Road Building.



BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
Central BC: 2666 Queensway, Prince George, BC, V2L 1N2
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafesafe.org