



INDUSTRY

# SAFETY ALERT

## Challenging conditions, challenging setting for hauling logs

*Ask for assistance when things don't go as planned*

Hauling conditions in the southern interior region in Spring 2022 are proving formidable. A recent example of the challenges to log haulers occurred west of Keremeos in early July, when the driver of the pictured truck cut a corner on a muddy haul road, and then tried to back up and put chains on as he could not maintain traction.

Fortunately, there was no damage or injuries. However, the situation serves as a good reminder how important it is to concentrate on the task at hand.

Despite the conditions, industrial traffic is still exposed to the travelling public in vehicles of all types – adding to the level of hazardous conditions.

### **Recognize an upset condition and ask for help!**

Drivers should be encouraged to ask for assistance when things don't go as planned. It is better to err on the side of caution. Had the driver immediately requested assistance, he may only have needed a push by a skidder. Ultimately, a loader machine was “walked” in to off-load the logs, reposition the truck and then reload it.

The pictures indicate ground conditions at the time. This southern interior resource road is steep, narrow and includes 13 switchbacks over a particular 5 km stretch. To maintain the road in usable condition, drivers must ascend in low RPMs to avoid creating washboard.

### **Common No-Go situations for hauling logs down steep roads**

- Air system and/or brake issues
- Rain or snow event that drastically reduces traction
- Steering system inadequate for tight corners or not functioning properly
- Mechanical issues with the engine brake
- Tire issues (flats, slow leaks, inadequate tread depth)



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](http://bcforestsafesafe.org)



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The truck's steering tires travelled forward to the orange tape measure (in yellow circle) then the driver backed up, unfortunately putting him closer to the edge. The tracks show the forward progress of the truck before it ran out of room to manoeuvre.



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Rear view at the cut corner shows that if workers attempted to pull the truck forward the trailer would clearly leave the road. It's important to recognize an upset condition and be ready to seek assistance.

BCFSC welcomes all incident or near-miss submissions. If you have an incident you'd like to share [click here](#). BCFSC will review and remove all identifying information to protect your privacy.

Disclaimer: Industry Alerts are voluntarily submitted by workers or companies. We encourage the sharing of information that can help improve safety for all workers. The BC Forest Safety Council is not responsible for accuracy of content.



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