



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Early Season Snow Hazards

Location: Resource roads in British Columbia

Date: October 2022

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident:

A sudden change in weather resulted in snow-related hazards. Chains were required to get to a logging block, and a driver reported having to avoid using the brakes on the way down to prevent the truck from sliding.

Learnings & Suggestions: Ensure your vehicle is equipped for winter. The drybox should include:

- Lug wrench
- Jack
- Shovel
- EMS Spill Kit
- First Aid kit (level 1) and 3 blankets
- Fire extinguisher 2.5-5lb, Recommended
- Tow chain, cable or rope with hooks
- Jumper Cables
- Chainsaw and related PPE: Hard hat, ear protection, eye protection, gloves, bucking chaps, mixed gas, bar oil, and pressure bandages on the operator
- Tire chains with bungy/spider cords, Install/test your chains prior to winter season.
- Windshield brush/scraper

Travel at a speed appropriate to road conditions, other traffic and visibility. Stay within the speed limit. Wear your seatbelt. Drive with your lights on.

Do not leave the emergency brake on in winter. It may freeze in the locked position. Block the wheels instead.

Use tire chains whenever conditions warrant it. Practice putting them on (video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oH3rL6tqUj0>



BC Forest Safety

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Watch for wildlife, especially deer whose movements are not predictable. In winter months, wildlife may be licking salt off the roads.

After having new tires installed, ensure that you check the tightness of the lug nuts shortly after installation, usually within the first 100km.



Photo of road leading to block in late October.

Early season snowfall in the backcountry creates many challenges and potential hazards.

