



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Close Call with Loaded Logging Truck

Location: Near Malakwa, BC

Date: January 2023

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident:

A log purchase employee's vehicle was in the shop. Therefore, he borrowed his wife's truck which does not have a truck mounted radio. He decided to bring a portable (handheld) radio with him to use while driving on the Gorge Forest Service Road. The employee called on his handheld radio when he started up the Forest Service Road at 0km, stating "Pick-up starting up the gorge 0km, anyone close?" There was no response. He decided to call again at 2km and then again at 4km. At approximately 4.7 km he was met by a loaded logging truck.

The employee quickly turned his vehicle towards the uphill slope and narrowly missed a collision. The loaded truck came within inches of his driver's side mirror. The log truck driver radioed and asked him, "Didn't you hear me call? I called at 6km." The employee responded that he didn't hear his call and asked if the log truck driver heard his calls. The driver stated that he didn't.

The employee decided not to proceed any further up the forest service road and thought it would be best to take his handheld to be inspected by a local radio shop. It was determined that the handheld had a faulty antenna.

Learnings & Suggestions:

- Always test and inspect your equipment.
- If using a personal vehicle or non-company vehicle that you typically don't use for work - ensure all safety equipment is available to you including a truck mounted radio, first aid kit, spill kit OR make other arrangements for your day.
- In the event that a portable (handheld) radio is required for use while driving on a resource road, it is strongly recommended that the portable radio be tested prior to use to determine its functionality and range.
- Ensure you have confirmation from another road user that they can hear your transmission prior to starting up or heading out on a resource road.
- Call kilometres more frequently.
- Alter your speed and expect that some resource road users may not hear your radio transmission.

Submitted by: Downie Timber Ltd, Gorman Group of Companies



BC Forest Safety

Unit 8C - 2220 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9S 1H9
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafety.org