

# MILL YARDS: SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

Each mill yard is unique and presents specific hazards that can affect your safety. Safe driving practices are essential, particularly when heavy equipment is in operation and other vehicles may need to enter the yard for various reasons.

## SAFE DRIVING PROTOCOLS INCLUDE:

- PRE-TRIP INSPECTIONS
- FOLLOWING SPEED LIMITS AND SIGNAGE
- LOAD HANDLING AND STABILITY
- AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION



BC Forest Safety

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## PRE-TRIP INSPECTIONS

- Conducting pre-trip inspections is an important safety protocol. These inspections help ensure your machine is safe to use before starting your day.
- Pre-trip vehicle inspection regulations apply to smaller vehicles (such as company pick-up trucks) as well as forklifts and log yard equipment.
- If any deficiencies are found, report them immediately to ensure that your vehicle/machine is repaired and safe to operate.

## FOLLOWING SPEED LIMITS AND SIGNAGE

- Speed limits are set based on road design, yard conditions and traffic flow.
- Always follow posted speed limits. Exceeding these limits increases the risk of accidents and severe injuries due to reduced reaction time and difficulty stopping.
- Signs are posted to warn of hazards like blind corners or nearby crosswalks. These signs are there for your safety and the safety of your coworkers.

## LOAD HANDLING AND STABILITY

- Improperly loading forks or grapples can make loads unstable.
- Failing to drive the forklift in reverse when necessary increases hazards and can lead to collisions, load spills, or even machine rollovers, depending on yard conditions.

## AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION

- All drivers must remain constantly aware of their surroundings and use their horn and radio for effective communication with others.
- Follow company protocols when entering work areas where heavy equipment is operating.
- Use your horn to alert pedestrians in crossing areas.
- Make eye contact and use hand gestures to ensure pedestrians are aware of you.
- Do not proceed without receiving eye contact or a confirmation wave from a pedestrian.

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