

FATALITY ALERT

– PRELIMINARY INFORMATION –

BCFSC #2016-09-02

On September 2nd, the driver of a loaded log truck was fatally injured when his truck went off a resource road and over a steep embankment in the Fernie area. RCMP reported that poor road conditions caused by a recent rain storm may have contributed to the incident.

Our condolences go out to the family and co-workers of the deceased.

WorkSafeBC, the RCMP and the Coroners Service are investigating this incident.

This is the 5th fatal incident involving a log truck in 2016. Previously reported fatalities as follows:

- January 26: A 22-year-old log truck driver died in a logging truck incident between Princeton and Merritt (See alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2755>)
- January 31: A 23-year-old man died after the empty logging truck he was trying to repair ran over him near Fraser Lake. (See alert: <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2761>)
- One associated fatality on August 15: A logging truck was driving along the Lougheed Highway near Harrison Mills when it tipped, sending logs rolling into the street. One of the logs struck a pickup truck and the female driver died at the scene. The driver of the logging truck was uninjured.
- August 8: The driver of a loaded log truck was fatally injured when his truck went off a resource road in the Mackenzie area. (See alert: <https://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2833>)

Although the details of this incident are still unknown, review the following safety information:

1) When driving, do frequent risk assessments. Observe what is happening around the vehicle and ask yourself “what if” type questions. For example: “How is this rain storm going to change the traction on this hill?”

2) Inspect and maintain all the mechanical components on your truck and trailer, paying special attention to the air brake system. Making sure that your truck and trailer are in top mechanical condition will make your job easier, safer and more productive.

3) The safest workers keep mentally engaged in what they are doing. Fight the urge to go on “auto-pilot” by focusing on the critical things that affect your safety on the job. Changes to the weather, traffic, radio calls and road conditions are all important factors to watch during the work day.

4) A worker’s emotional and physical state affects how well they can concentrate. Conditions like being hungry, tired, rushed or stressed out can all lead to distraction and loss of focus.

5) With fall approaching, watch out for increased public (hunters, ATV and other outdoor enthusiasts) and animal traffic on the roads. Check your lights and emergency equipment to make sure they are ready for the increased darkness and poor weather.

6) When driving conditions get worse and the risk of an incident increases, change your driving inputs (speed, steering) to compensate for the increased risk. Stop work and contact your supervisor if conditions become too dangerous.

Safety Resources:

1) Safety information for hunting and fishing enthusiasts using resource roads
<http://www.bcforestsafe.org/node/2837>