



For Safe Roads, Loads and Drivers Across British Columbia

March 2016

Issue 158

Three young workers killed in log hauling sector

Tragically the forest industry has seen three young workers lives ended in the last year in separate log hauling fatalities. There is an increase of young workers coming into the log hauling sector and industry is recognizing the critical importance of ensuring these workers are trained and competent.

With the current average age of log truck drivers being well over 50, there is no shortage of experience and knowledge available to train, mentor and coach new and young workers.

The future of the industry depends on our ability to attract, train and maintain competent workers. The influx of workers to BC and the forest industry from the downturn in the oil and gas industry, provides a larger pool of truck drivers. Review if your training and mentoring system addresses not only the large components of driving, but also the smaller details that can surprise a new driver, so that we can ensure these workers are trained and competent.

Professional Log Truck Driver Competency

The Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee (a group of log truck operators, contractors, FP Innovations, and regulators) with the support of the BC Forest Safety Council have developed the Log Truck Operator Competency. This was developed through hundreds of hours of work to identify the skills, knowledge and attributes required in the log hauling profession.

The objectives of the competency are to reduce injuries and fatalities of log truck drivers by:

- Developing drivers that are qualified (skills, knowledge, attributes) to operate logging truck configurations in a range of circumstances across BC
- Identifying and recognizing log haulers that currently meet the competency
- Providing industry with a tool that assures employers, licensees and the public that Log Truck Operators have demonstrated the competencies for their profession
- Supporting training programs with tools to train and evaluate candidates to the recognized competency

The project is currently undergoing field testing with training tools, and competency assessments available for industry use. The Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee will continue to review the field tests with improvements implemented into the competency and training programs. The project will continue in the field testing environment until the spring of 2017.

If you would like more information on the competency standard contact the Transportation Department at 250-562-3215 or email transport@bcforestsafe.org

Chock it to lock it!

Three incidents in the last nine months involved workers who died when under a vehicle. Preventable using proper lock out procedures and chocking vehicles when performing any type of maintenance.



When working on wheeled equipment, set the maxi/emergency brake before exiting the cab. When repairing the machine, use chocking blocks to prevent movement; if blocks are not available and you have to still proceed to go under the truck, use a method that gives equivalent security to prevent the vehicle from moving.

Most incidents happen when there is an upset condition. Pause and plan your work carefully before trying to fix the conditions that may lead to you going under the vehicle.

Safety Alert - "Chock it - Block it - Lock it"
Immobilize your equipment: <http://www.bforestsafe.org/node/1337>

More Info on Upset Conditions :<http://www.bforestsafe.org/node/1521>

RUMBLINGS



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Safety and the log hauler – what it really means

Does it mean keeping the truck on the road and delivering wood to the mill within the cycle times? Does it mean filling out the log book correctly, following procedures for cargo securement, following safe work procedures while at the loading site and unloading at the mill-yard? We all know that we are supposed to work safely and we have a good idea of what that means to the Prime Contractor, the Licensee and our boss. The truth is that safety for the log hauler is more than that – it's not just about compliance with a set of rules and regulations. Safety is about awareness, behaviours, and focus – every second – especially in the forest transportation industry when every second does count; when a moment of distraction can be the difference between living or dying not just for the log hauler but for others on the road.

As professional drivers, you are responsible for keeping focus on your own equipment, cargo and driving, and also for keeping a focus on the behaviour of others. You can't control what other drivers will do. You don't know when they will pull out to pass in poor conditions or with limited visibility and with not enough passing distance to safely get on their way. They may think that their actions will allow them to arrive that extra 15 minutes early – or not at all -- because a poor decision to pass your truck puts their life and yours at risk. No set of rules or regulations will save either of you in that instant. Both lives will depend on your focus and your ability as a professional driver.

Distraction, fatigue, complacency, and stress are the 'human' factors that affect every driver. The argument with your spouse or partner; the stress of bills to pay; the stress of meeting the cycle time; and the ongoing battle to find what they call 'life-work balance', are all part of the possible everyday distractions. The distractions that each driver needs to keep out of their head because that momentary lack of focus can be deadly.

You know the job, the risks, the hazards, the rules, and many of you have been doing this job for years. You have hauled on your local roads so many times you know every mile marker, every corner, every bridge. You may never have had an incident. That's what it means to be safe and you know that too – and you are right. It is all of this knowledge and skill that gets you safely home each night – so don't let tomorrow be any different.

The truth is an incident can happen to anyone, even the most seasoned driver, and you know that too. Stay focused on driving, be aware and alert for any unplanned event (blown tire, equipment failure) or the actions of another driver. Never let down your guard and don't think, 'It can't happen to me' because it can. Make Sure an accident is never your fault

By: Trish Kohorst

Driving tips for every trip

Speed kills—It may not cause the incident but the amount of energy involved is directly related to speed.

Keep Your Eyes Moving—Don't stare. Use your peripheral vision.

Leave Yourself an Out—Monitor the space cushion around you and your truck.

Keep your eyes on the road—No matter the reason, taking your eyes off the road for just a few seconds can spell the difference between a safe drive and a disaster.

Focus— Keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road constantly.

Dump the devices—Put away the cell phones, the iPods, and the tablets while you're driving. If you must engage with these devices, pull over to the side of the road.

Compensate for the less experienced— Take pride in the fact that you are one of the few who gets it. Then, you will feel sorry for less experienced drivers, instead of getting mad at them.

Manage blood sugar— Eating right will help you control the ups and downs in energy levels that contribute to fatigue. Eating high protein foods can increase alertness.

Smart use of caffeine— Caffeine can improve alertness but is best used strategically—only when you really need help staying awake. You can develop both a dependence and a tolerance so be aware.

Cold and flu medication— medications can keep you from sleeping at night, increasing drowsiness through the day.

Upcoming Trucker Appreciation Events:

April 27th: Kootenays

May 6th: Williams Lake

Transportation Safety is currently scheduling 2016 transportation safety sessions including: Anatomy of a Rollover, Standard of Care, Your Greatest Risk, and Drop It And Drive.

For more information on these sessions or if your organization is interested in hosting or sponsoring one of these events, please contact us via email at:

transport@bcforestsafe.org.

Telematics

Telematics are becoming part of the industry. More stories are working their way into the log hauling industry in British Columbia and there is plenty of information available that can help you apply this new technology.

Canfor and Lo-Bar Log Transport have selected Western Canadian based company CAN Telematics who offers a Fleet Management & Worker Safety technology known as Trakopolis. Chris Conrad, Territory Manager for Trakopolis indicates that this technology helps companies in any industry better manage their fleet of valuable vehicles, assets and workers through the use of GPS technology. Over the past two years, the CAN Telematics team have focused their efforts on developing “forestry friendly” enhancements to the feature-rich Trakopolis platform.

Forestry customers using Trakopolis will have access to many unique features and benefits such as:

- Cycle times reporting
- Fuel consumption analytics
- Engine diagnostics
- Driver scorecards
- Asset utilization reports
- Lone worker safety
- Custom forestry mapping

Canfor is currently utilizing data to determine where bottlenecks exist in cycle times. According to Canfor’s Supply Manager, Ken Pedersen, the data is being used to reduce inefficiencies starting at the mill side. In some cases that may be adding another machine to reduce unloading times at the mill, or adding an additional operator to cover lunch breaks and coffee breaks that are resulting in log haulers sitting in line-ups.

Marty Hiemstra, Operations Manager at Lo-Bar said: “The decision to install telematics units was the result of a joint effort between Lo-Bar and Canfor. We teamed up in 2014 to test two different products on a few trucks. Based on a number of factors Trakopolis won out and became Canfor’s preferred product.”

Trakopolis does offer “Dual Mode” (cellular with satellite backup). The cellular-based reporting system used by Canfor and Lo-bar is not always live information but if the truck is in a dead zone the data is captured and uploaded when the truck returns to an area within coverage. Lo-Bar installed these in all their log trucks in 2015 and have realized some of the potential benefits already. These include: cycle time analysis when roads were too slow to make the cycle; speed monitoring for prevention and post incident investigation; alerts for engine codes and non-reporting units; and the ability to visually see where the trucks are on Google map base.

“We find both the website and the mobile app user friendly. Some other features include idling reports, fuel burn, and drivers scorecard. Both CanTelematics and Bell (service provider) have been very customer focussed and constantly developing enhancements to the system,” said Marty.



Road Safety At Work Week March 7 – 11

During Road Safety at Work Week, businesses are encouraged to take action on workplace road safety. The main goal is to increase awareness amongst BC businesses of the need for robust road safety programs as part of their overall health and safety programs.

Every year, the Week focuses on a different aspect of road safety. This year, guided by the continuing efforts of an industry-based steering committee, the focus is on helping businesses better understand their responsibilities to employees who drive as part of their work. To do that, Road Safety at Work has created a new section on <http://www.roadsafetyatwork.ca> with an array of tools and resources for employers, supervisors and managers of those who drive for work, as well as for drivers themselves.



RUMBLINGS is produced to help keep you informed on what’s happening in BC forestry transportation safety.

If you have best practices you would like to share, concerns you want to discuss, or topics you and others would like to learn more about, please give us a call or email:

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transport@bcforestsafesafe.org