



# RUMBLINGS

FOR SAFE ROADS, LOADS AND DRIVERS — ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA  
FORESTRY TRUCKSAFE



BC **Forest Safety** Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

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Safety in Forestry Transportation TruckSafe Rumbings is published biweekly to keep you informed on what is happening in forest hauling safety in BC. Call MaryAnne Arcand to provide input or get the news out on best practices and concerns in the industry.

**Editor's Note:** *until the Forestry TruckSafe position has been filled, MaryAnne Arcand will continue to edit and produce Rumbings. We may have a couple guest editors over the next couple of months, so stay tuned for different perspectives and different 'voices'. Thanks*

## VANCOUVER ISLAND SAFETY CONFERENCE SET FOR OCTOBER 3

### ***"Leading Change Today for a Safe Tomorrow: on the Floor, in the Bush"***

The conference is fast approaching and seats are filling up fast. This conference will reinforce how you - as a supervisor, worker, owner-operator, or plant manager - can provide leadership in safety during these challenging times. This conference is for you, whether you are on the shop floor in wood products manufacturing or in the bush, from the one man owner operator company to the large licencees.

The Vancouver Island Steering Committee is made up of Labour, Industry, BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC. They have planned a free one day conference (lunch included), to help you network with others in the industry. This is your chance to learn best practices used in other operations, verbalize the questions you want answered and to plan ahead for future success.

The conference highlights include:

- (1) Opening Address - Reynold Hert, CEO of BC Forest Safety Council
- (2) Keynote Speaker – Murray Coell, Minister of Labour
- (3) Closing Speakers – Steve Frasher, CEO of Western Forest Products and Darrel Wong, President of USW 1-1937

There will also be a panel discussion made up of a worker, a supervisor, a contractor / owner operator, a plant manager and an industry safety representative who will offer their views about what progress has been made, and what challenges currently exist, for leadership in safety on the front-line. Then it is your turn to discuss in smaller groups how to meet the challenges of training, planning, and improving accountability for safety both now and when the industry gets back on its feet. **Registration deadline is TODAY....** go to [www.bcforestsafe.org](http://www.bcforestsafe.org) to register.

## **WOOD FIRST ACT**

The Wood First Act has been introduced in the B.C. Provincial Legislature. It is aimed at increasing demand for wood products by requiring provincially-funded building projects to use wood as the primary construction material.

"In an average year, the Province funds about \$3 billion worth of capital projects" says Minister of Forests and Range Pat Bell. "Putting a 'wood first' lens on this spending is an effective way to support B.C. forest workers and showcase wood products. Leading by example is the best way we can demonstrate to architects and builders the benefits of innovative wood building systems."

B.C. is urging Alberta, Saskatchewan and the federal governments to implement wood-first policies as well.

## **FREE TRAINING FOR SELF-EMPLOYED FORESTRY WORKERS**

Funded by the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada, the Forestry Labour Force Development Program will provide training to forest workers who are not eligible for Employment Insurance-funded projects. The goal of the program is to provide support to unemployed forestry workers and assist them to develop and enhance their skills in harvesting, human resource and business practices and business innovation developments to aid in their return to the future forest industry.

### **Who is eligible for training?**

Eligible participants *must*:

- Have previously worked in the forest industry
- Be self-employed or unemployed and not eligible for Employment Insurance
- Reside in one of the pilot program Development Regions:
  - Vancouver Island
  - Cariboo
  - Nechako
  - Northeast, or
  - North Coast
- Not be receiving support for the same training through another source

The training is being organized by the TLA, the NWLA and the CILA. If you're interested, here are the contact numbers, depending on where you live. Vancouver Island and North Coast (fallers), call the TLA at (604)684-4291; Cariboo, Nechako, North East or North Coast (harvesting), call MaryAnne at the CILA CILA (250)562-3368.

## **IT'S FORESTRY WEEK**

Forestry workers and employers should be proud of the unprecedented time, energy and money they have dedicated to improving safety in the woods since 2004. Together, we have made great strides to lay a solid safety foundation for the industry. This is worth celebrating during National Forest Week.

The BC Forest Safety Council has worked hard to encourage safe practices during the last five years. With the province-wide industry that funds and supports us, the Council has:

- Set standards and overseen safety system audits for more than 2,000 companies
- Trained more than 6,000 workers, including new fallers, faller supervisors and safety managers.

- Finalized testing and maintained certification for more than 3,500 hand fallers.

Most important, there is increased safety awareness across the industry and less of a perception that injuries and incidents are “just part of the job.”

The industry has made real, measurable progress in improving health and safety. But we need to increase our efforts to achieve other necessary advances. We must focus on making safety an integral part of the fabric of each worker’s life, every company’s operations and the industry’s culture.

The worldwide economic downturn is a challenge, not only to our bottom lines, but to our safe practices. It impacts the ability of workers and employers to consistently apply safety skills and systems. Budget restrictions make both basic training and skills development hard to undertake. Uncertainty and stress over the economy can affect a worker’s focus on the job — and when that job is inherently dangerous, the consequences can be disastrous. In these difficult times, we must be even more vigilant and focus on the future we want for our industry — one free of fatalities and serious injuries.

### **MPB EPIDEMIC OVER ACCORDING TO MINISTER**

Forest and Range Minister Pat Bell says the mountain pine beetle has killed approximately 24% of BC’s current timber harvest, and that 8 to 12 mills could close permanently if other sources of timber are not found. As the fall-down becomes reality, we’re going to hear calls to log protected areas, organization of “commercial forests” and other ways to increase the timber supply. But Bell says the beetle epidemic is essentially over. The beetles have run out of trees to eat in BC.

### **ROAD MAINTENANCE STILL AN ISSUE**

We’ve had numerous calls about road maintenance, particularly in the Interior – rough, pot-holes, no graders, no dust control. Some roads are so rough that drivers are off work due to sore backs! While it has indeed been a dry summer, that’s no excuse for not sending graders and water trucks. Interestingly, the worst roads by far are public roads, not industry maintained roads, and one particular maintenance contractor has been particularly unresponsive to calls and complaints. There’s rain and cooler weather in the forecast for most of the province next week (snow in the north!), so we’ll see what happens when the excuses are gone. We’ll be watching!

### **RADIO PROTOCOLS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN SOUTH PEACE OCTOBER 1**

Attached is the Information Bulletin outlining the changes that will be occurring with all Resource Roads within the south peace area of the Peace Forest District (resource roads south of the Peace River). The changes include new calling procedures, use of the new 42 resource road channels etc.

Operators in the south peace will be familiar with these upcoming changes. Specific advance notifications have been forwarded to Ministry of Forests (the procedures etc are now posted on the Peace District webpage), Enform, North/South Peace schools districts, the Municipalities of the NE that are impacted, BC Forest Safety Council and three of the Mining Associations of BC. The information bulletin includes the link to the Ministry of Forests Peace Region webpage where the new Procedures, Best Management Practices and Guidelines can be viewed and downloaded. [Click here to download.](#)

The implementation process will require orienting drivers to the new radio calling procedures and ensuring that two way radios have the new frequencies installed for the assigned roads. The Implementation date has been set for October 1, 2009.

## WHO'S WHO IN ROAD SAFETY ATTENDING CROSSROADS "FIT TO DRIVE" CONFERENCE

If you own a fleet of vehicles or supervise drivers in your company, you ought to think about attending the CrossRoads "Fit to Drive" Conference Oct 20 and 21. So far attendees include the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, Senior ICBC folks, the BC Trucking Association, BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation, the BC Safety Council, the new Trucking Safety Council of BC, the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Highways, Coroner's Service, Ambulance Service, CVSE, RCMP, WorkSafeBC,... and participants include Canfor, Carrier Lumber, Arrow, Excel, Shell Canada, Talisman, BC ATV club, logging contractors, City of PG, Northern Health, Carrier Sekani, First Nations, and many more.

Looking at "Fitness to Drive" seems to have struck a nerve with road safety managers and professionals, given that so many statistics confirm human error and human behaviour choices are the contributing factors in more than 80% of crashes. The conference is free. Attendees will be given a toolkit full of information ranging from prepared "trucker talks" on health and wellness to tips on dealing with young drivers, aging drivers, and addressing risk taking behaviours. You need to be there! Go to [www.roadhealth.org](http://www.roadhealth.org) to register.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 20– 21      CrossRoads "Fit to Drive" Road Safety Conference, Prince George  
Jan 20-22      TLA Convention, Victoria  
June 3-5/10    Resources Expo, Prince George

***If you know someone who would be interested in receiving TruckSafe Rumbings, please forward this email along. Signing up is easy. Just [click here](#) and you will be taken to our new sign up page. If you know someone who'd be interested but doesn't have email, forward their fax number to us at [arcand@bctrucksafe.org](mailto:arcand@bctrucksafe.org)***

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