



# RUMBLINGS

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



BC **Forest Safety** Council

○ PRINTABLE VERSION

March 2012 – ISSUE 137

## A Word of Congratulations !

The past logging season has been very busy indeed. In 2011, the BC forest industry moved 40% more wood than it did in 2009. We saw some interesting challenges from the weather. There was an unprecedented shortage of trucks and truckers as owners struggled to attract and retain quality operators; some left trucks sitting when they couldn't find drivers with the necessary skills and attitude. Drivers found themselves on new and longer hauls. Some routes experienced traffic volumes never before seen, and perhaps were not designed / built to accommodate. As the shift from beetle-killed pine occurs, truckers found themselves hauling heavier wood from steeper settings. Licensees and contractors worked together to coordinate operations to optimize truck utilization and delivery schedules.

But collectively the industry experienced proportionately fewer incidents, injuries and fatalities! Congratulations!

Nope, we weren't perfect. There's work to be done to further reduce motor vehicle accidents, slips, trips and falls, and sprains and strains. But given the challenges industry faced, and will likely continue to face, those accomplishments speak very well of the efforts of owners and drivers committed to making sure everyone gets home in good shape at the end of each day. Well done.

## Break-Up – A Good Time for YOUR Tune-Up

As break-up approaches you're probably thinking first about a well-earned holiday and spending more time with your family. And you're probably already planning for the hauling season ahead - change over the tires, change the oil in the diffs and transmission, paint the rigging, polish the chrome and get a full inspection.

Break-up is a great opportunity to invest time to do a little maintenance on the driver – you. Get your eyes checked. Hearing tests are an annual requirement and now is a good time to get it done. Do you ever wonder if sleep apnea is robbing you of a good night's rest – check it out. Northern Health will be providing health checks at some upcoming safety meetings – it only takes a few minutes. If you know the Motor Vehicle Branch will be sending you a letter about your full driver's medical exam, why not get it completed during break-up rather than missing a trip or two when you have to squeeze it in just before the deadline?

Break-up is also a great time to build a little more exercise into your day. Do a few stretches to condition your casting arm, and ready your back for hauling in that big halibut. Dust off the bike and do a few laps of the neighborhood. Show the kids the right way to throw a knuckleball, or how you earned the name "Deke" on the soccer field. Take an evening stroll with your sweetie. The key component of any successful log hauling operation is a healthy driver.

## Websites of Interest

- Looking for a **tree house project** like none you have seen? [CLICK HERE](#)
- Looking for information and resources on **Distracted Driving**? [CLICK HERE](#)
- Ever wonder what's happening in **New Zealand** forestry? [CLICK HERE](#)



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## Gordon Campbell and Prime Contractor Accountabilities

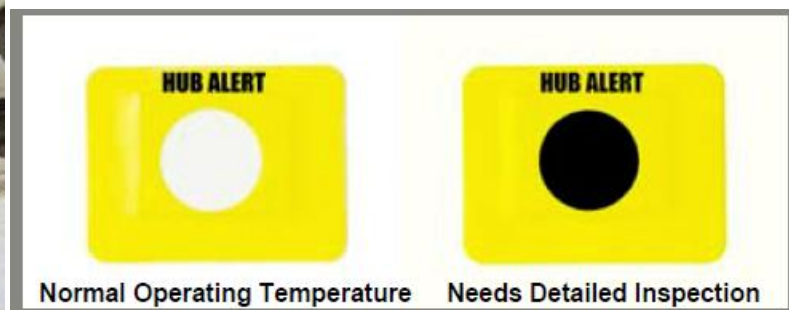
An accident in which a roofer died after falling through the skylight on former premier Gordon Campbell's vacation home is highlighting a little-known piece of contract law that can have huge implications for homeowners.

A WorkSafeBC report says Campbell, as the homeowner, became the "prime contractor" because he failed to assign that written role to the general contractor whose company was doing the renovations. As a result, Campbell had the legal responsibility for coordinating and establishing compliance with health and safety requirements.

If you hire a contractor or two to tackle parts of your honey-do list, check to make sure they are registered and in good standing with WorkSafeBC, confirm they are financially responsible if an unregistered worker is injured on the job, verify there is a coordination process in place to ensure one employer's work does not adversely impact another's, and ensure a system is in place and able to intervene if non-compliance is occurring, or about to occur. But assigning prime contractor status to an eligible contractor doesn't let you entirely off the hook – as owner of the house, you need to identify hazards to the prime, and complete your due diligence to confirm that contractor is competent / capable of satisfying the role of prime contractor, and confirming the safety systems they have in place.

## Hub Alert – Overheating Detection

Normal operating temperature of hub / hubcap grease or oil should not exceed 107°C (or 225°F). Hub Alert heat sensing label will turn from white to black (and stays black) when hub / hubcap surface temperature reaches 121°C (250°F), letting you know when a detailed inspection is required, and enabling you to avoid more costly repairs after it's too late.



## Paddy's Parking Woes

*Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!'*

*Miraculously, a parking place appeared.*

*Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'*



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## Shipper Responsibilities

The US legal system differs significantly from our own. When motor vehicle accidents occur, Americans seem much more eager than Canadians to sue someone. But the case below demonstrates how American courts are extending accountabilities well beyond the truck driver, and the truck owner.

Earlier this month, a Cook County jury awarded Nancy Hoffman \$24.55 million dollars following a collision with a tractor-trailer which rendered her a paraplegic. The case arose from a 2002 accident in which Hoffman and her daughter were injured when a truck struck Hoffman's car on Interstate 80 in Iowa.

Plaintiffs sued the truck driver, the trucking company that leased the vehicle, the logistics company that arranged the coil transportation (3PL Corporation), and the company that supplied the coils. Plaintiffs asserted liability based on a principal-agent relationship between the truck driver and the corporate defendants. Apparently, the courts agreed.

## Transport Robert Trying Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Tractors

Transport Robert is operating 16 Peterbilt and Kenworth tractors, and has another 175 on order. Why LNG? Energy security, emissions reductions, greenhouse gas reductions, economic life cycle benefits, diesel price risk mitigation.

- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Fuelled Heavy-Duty engine
- Compression Ignition Engine (no spark plug) - Pilot ignition using less than ~5% diesel
- Direct injection of both fuels into combustion chamber
- No internal changes to engine with exception of injectors
- Fully integrated LNG fuel system
- Factory installed – full warranty



### Upcoming Events

Western Conference on Safety	April 23 - 24	Vancouver, BC
Bridging the Divide: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Natural Resource Labor Needs in Northern BC	April 24 – 25	Prince George, BC
Central Interior Logging Association AGM	May 9	Prince George, BC
Interior Logging Association Conference & AGM	May 10 – 12	Vernon, BC

**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 at **250-562-3215**.