



## Helicopter - ERP Drill/Demonstration

Is your company ready for an emergency? WorkSafeBC mandates that employers should be prepared for an emergency as part of their regulatory and legal compliance. Companies are required to plan, prepare and train employees for various types of potential emergencies related to their operations.

When it comes to Emergency Response Plans (ERPs), companies need to create site-specific ERPs. They need to consider and prepare for various emergency situations and conduct regular emergency and first aid drills as part of their annual drill requirements to ensure workers understand their roles and responsibilities.

As forestry operations in BC become more remote, emergency preparedness and accessibility could be a matter of life or death. Helicopter emergency services are a good option to include in an ERP. To help companies understand how to build an ERP to include and use helicopter services, the Coast Harvesting Advisory Group, 49 North Helicopters, BCFSC and TEAAM Aeromedical held two half-day training sessions in Campbell River on December 2, 2024.

Close to 100 people attended these sessions, which covered:

- Planning
- Scene assessment
- Reporting/calling for help
- Communication planning
- Equipment and personnel requirements
- Critical interventions to improve patient outcomes
- Helicopter response strengths and limitations
- Types of emergencies that helicopter emergency services can respond to
- Building a relationship and communicating with a helicopter provider
- Testing an ERP

The sessions included a live demonstration of manual loading and long-lining an injured worker. Feedback was very positive, with many participants witnessing helicopter extraction training for the first time. While helicopter extraction is a vital and viable option for first aid and ERP requirements, it can be complex. This type of demonstration and training is crucial for effective emergency response if and when its needed.

If you would like to learn more, visit the BCFSC website and look for [Emergency Response Planning](#) or contact BCFSC Transportation and Northern Safety by email at [transport.admin@bcforestsafe.org](mailto:transport.admin@bcforestsafe.org).



# Forestry Worker ORV Training Courses

Operating Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), including ATVs and UTVs, is one of the highest-risk activities for forestry workers. Incidents involving these machines can lead to serious injuries or even fatalities.

To address these risks, BCFSC, in collaboration with Tirion Safety Ltd. (formerly Overland Training Canada), has developed a comprehensive training program focussed on the safe operation of ORVs.

There are two program options:

## 1. Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Safety Training

- **Duration:** One day, in-person
- **Focus:** Essential skills for safe ORV operation in industrial forestry settings
- **Learning Outcomes:**
  - » Understanding ORV safety features and PPE requirements
  - » Unloading, loading, and securing ORVs for transport

- » Conducting pre-trip inspections
- » Basic operation controls and starting procedures
- » Loading and securing cargo
- » Effective strategies for safe operation techniques and skills

- **Group Size:** Limited to 8 participants
- **More Information:** Available on the [BCFSC website](#)

## 2. Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Operator Training

- **Duration:** Two days, in-person
- **Focus:** More in-depth, comprehensive training for high-risk conditions in industrial forestry settings
- **Learning Outcomes:**
  - » All outcomes from the ORV Safety Training
  - » Effective route planning
  - » Navigating rough and complex terrain

- » Machine recovery techniques
- » Basics of trailer towing

- **Group Size:** Limited to 8 participants
- **More Information:** Available on the [BCFSC website](#)

General training, open to everyone, is also available through Tirion Safety Ltd. To register for a public session or to request a private group session, please contact Tirion Safety Ltd. at [info@tirionsafety.com](mailto:info@tirionsafety.com) or call 1-604-902-3331. 📞



# Resource Road Safety

It's that time of year again. Traffic on forest service and resource roads will be increasing in the coming months as the skies begin to brighten and people start heading out to work and play.

Resource roads are built to develop and protect BC's natural resources. They provide access for industrial and recreational users but are not constructed to the same standards as highways. All resource road users play a key role in ensuring safe passage on these roads. Always exercise caution and have an understanding of the risks.

Most resource roads have gravel surfaces and are often single lanes with limited visibility due to roadside brush and sharp, winding turns and curves. They often have soft shoulders, minimal ditches, steeper grades, changing road surfaces with loose or rough gravel and potholes.

Drivers should always read and understand the signs at the start of the road and along the way as they provide important information about the road, radio channel, restrictions, expected traffic and other hazards and obstacles you may encounter while driving.

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## Rules of the Road

- Yield to industrial traffic.
- Drive on the right-hand side.
- Adjust your speed according to road and weather conditions.
- Obey the posted speed limit and never exceed 80 km/h.
- Keep headlights and taillights on.
- Stop in safe, visible locations, ideally in pullouts.
- Bridges are often single-lane.
- Do not overtake industrial vehicles unless the driver signals it is safe.

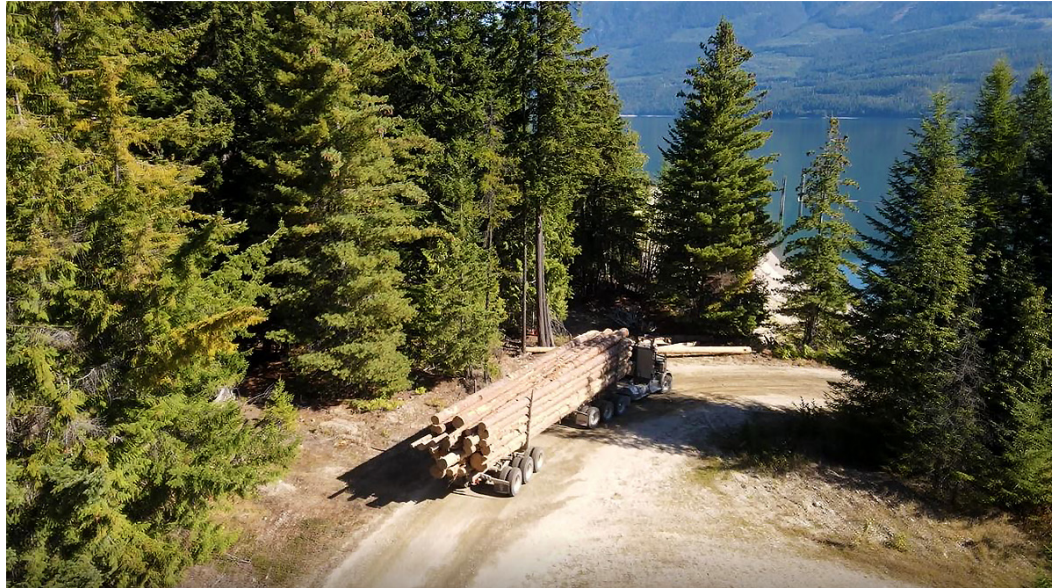
## Expect the Unexpected

- Always plan ahead. Complete a pre-trip plan and share it with a reliable person.
- Stay alert and focused on driving.
- Watch for wildlife.
- If you spot smoke or fire, extinguish it if safe to do so. Report forest fires.
- Dust indicates traffic; watch the road.
- If lost or stranded, stay with your vehicle for easier rescue.

## Mobile Radio Use

If you are using a mobile radio, know where you are travelling and use the posted channels and call protocols. If you are unaware of which channels to use, contact or visit a local mobile radio shop who can provide the correct channels for the area and even program your radio for you.

When you are travelling, you will find the radio and call protocols typically posted at the beginning of the resource road and in areas along the way. Use the following protocol instructions when using a mobile radio while travelling on resource roads:



1. Road Name
2. Kilometres Location
3. “Up” or “Down”
  - a. Calling “Up” when travelling in direction of increasing kilometres signs
  - b. Calling “Down” when travelling in direction of decreasing kilometres signs

*Example: “Sukunka, 10 kilometre, Up”*

If you don't have a two-way radio on an active haul road, wait at the beginning of the road and then follow a vehicle equipped with one. Mirror its actions: pull over when they do, drive when they drive and match their speed. If no vehicle with a radio arrives to escort you, then proceed with extreme caution.

Understanding how to communicate while travelling on a resource road could save your life and the lives of others. Stay safe and informed, and always expect the unexpected.

## Additional BCFSC Resources:

- [Resource Road Safety](#)
- [Resource Road Orientation YouTube Video](#)
- [Radio Use and Road Calling Procedures YouTube Video](#)
  - » [Radio Calling Safety Byte](#)
- [Resource Road Driver Knowledge Unit – Free Online Learning Course](#) to help you prepare for Resource Road driving 🚚

