

## Introduction

Driving on haul roads can be a hazardous, sometimes challenging experience.

- The road surface is ever changing and cannot be compared to driving on a paved road.
- The road is often narrow.
- The shoulders can be soft and unpredictable.
- Oncoming traffic can range from small passenger vehicles to very large and wide loads.
- Wildlife cross the road without warning.
- ATV's and snowmobiles drive on or cross the road surface without warning.
- Dusty conditions can limit your ability to see oncoming traffic or wildlife.
- Public road users are not necessarily accustomed to operating on haul roads.

These and other hazards can result in serious injury or death if they are not respected.

## Training Requirements

Class 5 (or higher) Driver's License	Required
Defensive Driving	Recommended
Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)	Required when transporting controlled products in bulk.

## Critical Task Inventory

- Pre-Trip Inspection
- Top 10 Rules of the Road
- General Haul Road Travel
- Driving in Dusty Conditions
- Passing Vehicles and/or Equipment – Same Direction
- Passing Vehicles and/or Equipment – Opposing Direction
- Driving in Spring Break-up or Winter Conditions
- Haul Road Radio Use
- Parking at the Worksite

## PPE Requirements

Image	Description	Standard
	Sunglasses or Safety Glasses	Recommended on Active Haul Roads
	High Visibility Vest	Required Outside of Vehicle on Active Roads

## Safety Equipment

Image	Description	Standard
	Fire Extinguisher	Required
	First Aid Kit	Required
	Flares or Reflective Triangles	Required
	Seatbelt	Required to Be Worn at All Times
	Communication Device	Required
	Hand Tools	Required in Fire Season
	Backpack Sprayer	Required in Fire Season

Frequency of Exposure (F)	Severity of Loss (S)	Probability of Loss (P)	F + S + P = Risk Rating (R)
1 = Up to Weekly 2 = Up to Daily 3 = 1+ Times / Day	1 = Class C – Minor, non-disabling, non-disruptive 2 = Class B – Serious injury or disruptive loss 3 = Class A – Major injury, permanent disability or loss	1 = Limited chance adverse event will occur 2 = Adverse event likely to occur 3 = Adverse event likely to occur soon	7 to 9 = High Risk 5 to 6 = Medium Risk 3 to 4 = Low Risk

**Type Of Hazard:** H = Health (acute or chronic) S = Safety (people and equipment) Q = Quality P = Production E = Environment

## Pre-Trip Inspection

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Vehicle Breakdown (S)	2	3	2	7

## Vehicle Walkaround

Perform a walkaround of the vehicle looking for deficiencies (i.e. any lights out, tires low on air, fuel, oil level, etc.).

## Communications

Do a reception check and transmission check at the beginning of each day.



## Emergency Equipment

Make sure you have all of the potential necessary emergency equipment.



Fire Extinguisher



Flares or Reflective Triangles



First Aid Kit

## Top 10 Rules of the Road

The following rules have been produced by the BC Forestry TruckSafe Action Plan. All forestry drivers are encouraged to follow the principles outlined below.

1. Use your radio as an aid to prevent accidents, but do not depend on it to save lives. Nearly all forest roads are radio-assisted, not radio-controlled, so not all road users have a radio.
2. All loaded vehicles call (two km. intervals) and empties listen, unless you are positive the vehicle in front of you is calling for you. Loaded vehicles should announce any stoppages and the duration, as well as subsequent starts.
3. Call empty when entering a new road, when there is a posted call sign or when you are unsure of the exact location of oncoming traffic. Wide loaded low-beds call odd, empty kilometres and identify "wide load".
4. All traffic must drive on the right side of the road.
5. Switch channels only when you can see the road frequency change sign.
6. Observe proper radio-use protocols. Absolutely no visiting/chatter or foul language is tolerated on the road channel.
7. Empty vehicles use designated pullouts to clear loads and allow time to sit if necessary.
8. Use headlights at all times, but point them away from oncoming traffic in the dark when in a pullout.
9. Always drive according to conditions, particularly hazardous ones such as dust, snow, soft subgrade or areas of high non-radio assisted traffic.
10. Expect and prepare for the unexpected. Road conditions can change without warning.



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## General Haul Road Travel

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Personal Injury (S)	2	3	2	7
Vehicle Damage (S)	2	3	2	7

### General Haul Road Travel

- Drive with headlights on at all times.
- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Secure any loose items within the cab.
- Know and follow regional rules of the road.

### Road Conditions

- Drive according to the existing road conditions. Watch out for soft shoulders, potholes, craters, and washboard.
- Avoid sudden directional changes as this may result in loss of control and cause the vehicle to enter the ditch and possibly rollover.
- Use extreme caution on narrow roads to avoid hitting other vehicles or slipping off the road.
- Watch for speed signs – these are for ideal conditions only. Slow Down.

### Oversized Vehicles

Use extreme caution when sharing haul roads with large vehicles such as transport trucks, logging trucks, etc. Always give them the right-of-way.

### Take Your Time

Don't be in a rush – the people you are planning to meet will understand if you are running behind schedule – your main objective is to get to where you are going in one piece.



## Driving in Dusty Conditions

Haul roads are often very dusty. This dust can create serious visibility problems causing motorists to hit one another or to hit parked or slow moving vehicles.

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Contact with Objects (S)	2	3	2	7
Exposure to Road Dust (H)	2	3	2	7

### Controls

- Increase following distances.
- Keep headlights on at all times.
- Keep tail lights clean.
- Close windows and use air conditioning to manage temperature (if equipped).
- Never pass a leading vehicle when you cannot see clearly.
- Slow down and let the slow vehicle move further away from you so you are not driving in their dust, or contact the operator by radio and ask if they would slow, pull to the side and advise you when it would be safe to pass.



*If you have to park off of a dusty road, position your vehicle well clear of traffic.*

## Passing Vehicles and/or Equipment – Same Direction

Passing a vehicle that is traveling in the same direction can be very hazardous on a haul road. Passing is not encouraged, unless the vehicle that you are passing is stopped or nearly stopped and pulled over toward the side of the road.

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Collision (S)	2	3	2	7

### Passing

- Never pass while going up a hill.
- Radio the vehicle that you intend to pass.
- Ask them to slow, pull to the side and advise you about the road and traffic conditions in front of them.
- Pass when the vehicle has slowed, pulled over and conditions are clear.
- Do not pass if there is a possibility of blowing snow, rain or dust becoming a visibility hazard.

### Being Passed

Slow down and pull over when being passed.

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## Passing Vehicles and/or Equipment – Opposing Direction

Vehicles passing in the opposite direction can lose control or kick up dangerously large rocks.

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Contact with Oncoming Vehicle and/or Equipment (S)	2	3	2	7
Rock Chips and Cracked Windshield (S)	2	3	2	7
Eye Damage or Damage from Glass Chips (S)	2	3	1	6

### Avoid Vehicle Contact

- Slow down when approaching oncoming vehicles or equipment.
- Make room for oncoming vehicles by pulling toward the shoulder (particularly on narrow roads).
- Slow right down if the road is at all rough or could have loose gravel/rocks.
- On narrow haul roads, empty vehicles or equipment shall yield the right of way to the loaded vehicles or equipment. Get out of the way.

### Rocks and Windshields

On haul roads, pickups and transport trucks can kick up large rocks. When combined with the passing speed of the two vehicles, these rocks can hit your windshield with great force. On occasion, a large/fast rock will hit the windshield and crack it enough to shower the occupants with fine particles of glass. The driver, if not suitably protected, can get glass in their eyes causing immediate pain and damage which can cause the driver to lose control of their vehicle.

It is strongly recommended that you wear sunglasses or safety glasses while driving.



## Driving During Spring Break-Up or Winter Conditions

Driving during spring break-up can be very hazardous.

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Loss of Control (S)	2	3	2	7
Vehicle Damage (S)	2	2	2	6

### Rough Conditions

It is recommended that only suitably equipped 4X4 pickup trucks travel on haul roads during spring break-up.

### Familiarize Yourself with the Road

- Take it extra slow your first time on any haul road each spring. There are often major road hazards that can cause you to lose control or damage your vehicle.
- Be alert and have the utmost respect for the changing road conditions.

### Communicate

Warn others of challenges and hazards that you have encountered – it may just save a person from being involved in an incident.

### Approaching Road Hazards

- Approach potholes slowly as it is often difficult to tell how deep they are until it is too late.
- Avoid large ruts that could cause your vehicle to get hung up or sustain undercarriage damage.



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# Haul Road Travel & Radio Use

*Hazard Assessment and Training Briefing*

## Haul Road Radio Use

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Loss of Communications (S)	2	2	2	6
Contact with Other Vehicles (S)	2	2	2	6

### Pre-Trip Inspection

Do a reception check and transmission check at the beginning of each day.

### Communications System

- Avoid unnecessary chatter on the haul road channel.
- Call kilometer markers as instructed in the regional Rules of the Road guidelines – otherwise call in all kilometer markers.
- Call in vehicles with no radios regardless of their direction of travel.
- Pull over to use the radio if a long conversation is required.

Remember “loaded” vehicles are driving the haul route *towards* town. “Empty” vehicles are travelling *away* from town.

### Clarity of Communications

- Talk slowly and clearly and hold the microphone about 10 cm (4 inches) from your mouth when speaking.
- Be brief and to the point.
- Do not interrupt radio conversations.
- Do not yell into the microphone.

### Order of Message Priority

1. Distress Communications
2. Urgency Communications
3. Safety Communications
4. All Other Communications

### Profane Transmissions

Profane or obscene language is strictly prohibited and is considered an offence under federal law.

## Parking at the Remote Worksite

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Impeding Traffic Flow (S)	3	3	1	7
Vehicle may have to be moved quickly in the event of an emergency (S)	1	2	2	5

### Worksite Parking

- If there are other people in the work area, and you are not sure where it is safe to park, please ask the people onsite.
- When parking on the side of a road, position the vehicle so that it will have a minimal impact on passing vehicles. Watch for soft and/or steep shoulders.
- Park the vehicle “facing out” so that any emergency response requiring leaving the site can be done quickly.

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