

SAFETY MEETING

Safe Travel on Logging Roads



presentation



OFSWA
Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association
Partners on the Road to Zero

Purpose of the meeting

- Discuss logging road hazards and how to control them
- Company policy on logging road travel
- Safety is everyone's responsibility

Logging road hazards

- Roads are unmapped, unpaved and unpatrolled
- Mechanical, medical help is far away
- Threat of encountering obstacles – washouts, boulders, fallen trees, animals
- Other heavy equipment uses the road
- You may encounter hunters, anglers, campers, bikers, snowmobiles and ATVs

How to deal with the hazards

- Stay well behind other vehicles to avoid dust and stones
- Pull off the road until heavy dust cloud settles
- Don't pass another vehicle unless it's absolutely necessary
- Log haul drivers should be given the right-of-way as much as possible, but all drivers need to drive defensively
- Have emergency supplies on hand for severe weather conditions
- In freezing rain, travel only if it's absolutely necessary

Adapt driving to conditions

- Rough surfaces, steep grades (plus water, mud and ice in bad weather)
- Curves are tight and often not banked, grades are steep
- Slower speed, heightened attention required
- Slow down and use your horn when cresting a steep hill or rounding a sharp bend
- Use seat belt at all times
- Reduce wear on tires and brakes by shifting to a lower gear

Inspection and vehicle safety

- Inspect vehicle(s) daily before setting out
- Check ground under the vehicle for loss of oil or brake fluid
- If lost or if vehicle is disabled, stay where you are and radio for help
- Report road surface damage such as washouts, log spills

Company policy

- Travel policy and procedures
- Driving personal vehicles
- Driving company vehicles

Safety is everyone's responsibility

- Working safely applies to driving company or personal vehicles on company business
- Everyone is responsible for safe travel
- Everyone has a responsibility to report unsafe driving, close calls and incidents

Safety is everyone's right

- No worker can be disciplined for reporting unsafe conditions
- Workers are entitled to be informed of all hazards
- Under certain conditions, a worker may refuse to drive or ride in a vehicle if he or she honestly believes it is unsafe to do so for any reason (Section 43(3) work refusal)

Wrap-up and review

- Logging roads aren't like other roads – there are different hazards
- Drivers must adapt to the hazardous conditions
- Daily inspection and vehicle safety
- Know your company's travel policy and stick to it
- Everyone is responsible for safe travel on logging roads