

# Resource Road Safety Bulletin

Release Date: September 09, 2009



## History

In the last 10 years motor vehicles have claimed 68 lives in the forest and oil and gas industries of British Columbia. Resource road fatalities accounted for 36 of these fatalities. The predominant contributing factors related to resource roads were road design and maintenance, speed, personal impairment and lack of radio communication. Failure to wear seat belts was noted in 58% of the resource road fatalities. (*Reference: Resource Road Demonstration Project Final Report July 2009*)

In 2008 the South Peace Road Safety Committee (SPRSC) was formed with the primary purpose of facilitating road safety and support for road owners due diligence with respect to the *Workers Compensation Act*. (*Reference: SPRSC Terms of Reference 2009*)

## Moving Forward

The South Peace Road Safety Committee has finalized a set of *Best Management Practices, Procedures, and Guidelines* aimed at improving safety on resource roads in the South Peace (southern portion of the Peace Forest District in Northeast British Columbia). The Committee has set an implementation date of **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009** for member companies to implement change and further promote safe operation and use of BC resource roads.

The implementation and application of the newly developed tools within the Peace Forest District may also hold future relevance to resource road safety in other Forest Districts and jurisdictions. British Columbia currently holds some 600,000 kilometres of resource roads used by the public (recreation, etc.) and industry (resource extraction, etc.)

## Resource Road Users

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 key changes regarding the use of resource roads in the South Peace will come into effect requiring actions and change on your part as a user/driver; Your 2-way radios will need re-programming to add the 42 new resource road channels; new radio calling procedures will go into effect (calling *up* and *down* versus *loaded* and *empty*); new rules for oversized loads and convoy travel apply and increased enforcement of road rules and procedures by tenure holders and employers will occur. Please review the procedures and best practice documents (available online):

- Standardized road rules (*Procedure # 1 – Driving Resource Roads*)
- 42 new resource road radio channels (*Procedure # 1 – Driving Resource Roads, Point 18 and Best Management Practice # 9 – Assignment of Radio Frequencies*)
- Standardized radio call procedures (*Procedure # 2 – Radio Call Protocol*)
- Specific direction for heavy transports (*Procedure # 3 – Oversized loads/Low-bedding Equipment*)
- Recommendations to enhance compliance and enforcement (*Best Management Practice # 2 – Compliance and Enforcement*)

## Resource Road Tenure Holders and Owners

Please review the full suite of SPRSC *Best Management Practices, Procedures, and Guidelines* (available online) and be aware of the requirements as they apply to the roads

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that you operate or are responsible to maintain. Implementation begins October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The success of this program is dependent upon each Tenure Holders/Owners efforts to implement the needed changes in a timely and effective manner:

- *Best Management Practice #1 - Co-ordination of Multiple User Work Sites*
- *Best Management Practice #2 - Compliance and Enforcement*
- *Best Management Practice #3 - Accident/Incident Reporting*
- *Best Management Practice #4 - Standard for Informational Road Sign*
- *Best Management Practice #5 - Road Design and Construction*
- *Best Management Practice #6 - Emergency Response Protocol*
- *Best Management Practice #7 - Assignment of Radio Frequencies*
  
- *Procedure #1 - Driving Resource Roads*
- *Procedure #2 - Radio Calling Protocol*
- *Procedure #3 - Oversized Loads/Low-bedding Equipment*
- *Procedure #4 - Standard for Managing Road Hazards*
- *Procedure #5 - Communication Protocol*
  
- *Guideline #1 - Minimum Resource Road Maintenance Standard*
- *Guideline #2 - Equitable Cost Sharing of Resource Road Maintenance*
- *Guideline #3 - Making Resource Road Restrictions Known*
- *Guideline #4 - Sample of a Standard Road Maintenance Agreement*

## Resources

### On the Web:

SPRSC Resource Road Best Management Practices, Procedures, and Guidelines

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dpc>

WorkSafe BC – Injury Prevention Resources for Petroleum (Oil & Gas) - Resource Roads

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Petroleum/ResourceRoads.asp>

BC Forest Safety Council - Tools for Resource Road Users

[http://www.bcforestsafe.org/forestry\\_trucksafe/tools\\_roadusers.html](http://www.bcforestsafe.org/forestry_trucksafe/tools_roadusers.html)

### In Person:

If you hold questions with respect to resource road use or management please contact your employer or a resource road owner or maintainer directly.