



SURFACE WATER QUALITY STEWARDSHIP TOOLBOX

Field Safety

Gear/supplies to have:

- Sturdy non-slip footwear, appropriate clothing/protection for the weather
- Gear for water conditions (e.g., life jacket, throw bag, wading staff)
- Reflective vests
- Cell phone and/or satellite location device
- First-aid kit including emergency contact information
- VHF radios if available for calling on active logging roads (programmed with necessary radio frequencies)
- Hard hat (required on/near logging roads or when working near overhead hazards)
- Map and directions, access agreement for private land access, permission from forestry company for logging road use, if applicable
- Water, lunch

Conduct:

- Be safety trained (forestry road use, basic first aid, bear aware, swift water awareness, etc.)
- Always sample with a partner (buddy system)
- Tell a responsible person where you are going (field trip plan), check-in times, and when you will be back. Follow your trip plan and check in as scheduled
- Tailgate meetings - Assess weather or environmental hazards and how to mitigate them prior to conducting fieldwork
- Park well off the side of the road. Use hazard lights and safety cones if close to road
- Be familiar with site and surroundings
- No smoking
- No ATVs near streams
- Be very careful around slippery rocks and high flows
- Stay aware for both wildlife and human interactions. Follow appropriate wildlife safety procedures if applicable: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/staying-safe-around-wildlife>
- Never sample if you feel it is unsafe to do so

When on logging roads:

- Understand standard radio and road use procedures on forestry roads. Radio frequencies and procedures for radio use on Forest Service Roads across the province can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resource-roads/radio-communications>. Training video: [Radio Use and Road Calling Procedures - YouTube](#)

- Always follow road procedures recommended by the signage at the start of the mainline (posted by Province or forestry companies operating in the area)
- Bring gate keys when necessary and inform companies when you will be on their roads if on private forest land
- Use extra caution
- Turn headlights on
- Observe signs of applicable radio frequency, set radio to appropriate frequency/channel and be aware of possible changes in frequency
- Use radio to update position and listen for location of vehicles sharing the road. Example:
 - Call to advise of new vehicle entering logging road (e.g., “pick-up off of highway starting up Duncan Main”)
 - When passing kilometer markers, update location including truck description (pick-up), km mark (e.g., 2 km), road (e.g., Duncan Main), and direction (e.g., when km markers are counting up say ‘up’, when km markers are counting down say ‘down’)
→ “Pick-up, 2km, Duncan Main, up.”
(Note some roads use in/out instead of up/down)
 - Update when changing roads (e.g., “pick-up off of Duncan Main onto Pigeot Main”)
- Give right-of-way to logging trucks, low-beds, commercial and emergency vehicles
- Use pullout/pull over to the side of the road and come to a complete stop when trucks approaching. Announce if pulling off road and clear for oncoming traffic
- Do not stop on blind corners
- Use caution and drive to road conditions, do not depend entirely on the radio (MAX 80 km/hr or the speed posted)