

EMERGENCY PLANS

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Always plan ahead! Weather can change very quickly; vehicles break down; people get lost; first aid emergencies may happen at any time.



Make sure you know where you are going, what facilities and emergency services are available near by. Know the emergency numbers for your area - 911 doesn't work in all areas of the province.

BE PREPARED!

Resource road users must be prepared for emergencies. Generally, there are no hospitals, restaurants, telephone booths or cell coverage, gas stations, etc. Research and plan your trip before you leave.

Be sure to take the following:

- Two-way radio
- Cell and/or Satellite Phone and/or SPOT
- Map and compass
- GPS w/ batteries
- Extra food, water and fuel
- Sunscreen, sunglasses
- First aid kit
- Warm clothing
- Sleeping bags
- Flashlight w/ extra bulb and batteries
- Knife
- Whistle and Mirror
- Orange Tarp and / or Tent
- Fire Starter and Matches (in water-proof container)
- Fire extinguisher
- Shovel
- Tool kit
- Spare tire
- Winter tires and chains in winter

CHECK IN

Fill out a trip plan and provide it to a dependable person. Identify where you are going and when to expect your return. Work together to develop an action plan in case you don't return home at the planned time.



If you are lost or stranded, stay with your vehicle; it will provide shelter until help arrives. Often, it is easier for rescuers to find a vehicle than an individual in the woods.

Check out the [BC Search and Rescue Association](#) website for more tips and links.

RULES OF THE ROAD



Apply the same rules of the road as you do on the highway:

- **Don't drink and drive.**
- **Take your licence and insurance.**
- **Wear your seatbelt.**
- **Drive with the lights on.**
- **Drive on the right hand side of the road.**
- **Yield to industrial traffic.**
- **Stop in a safe, visible location.**
- **Drive safe speeds:**
 - Obey the speed limit.
 - Never exceed 80km/hr.
 - Observe and obey road signs.
 - Drive to road conditions.

Remember to:

- Stay Alert! - Focus on driving.
- Use caution - expect the unexpected!
- Watch out for wildlife.
- Extinguish all flames and sparks - use an ashtray.
- Report forest fires.
- Pack it out - don't litter.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information please contact your local Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) office or the BC Forest Safety Council.

- Wildfire Reporting:** 1-800-663-5555
*5555 on a cell
- BC Forest Safety Council:** 1-877-324-1212
- Crime Stoppers:** 1-800-222-8477
- Enquiry BC:** 1-800-663-7867
- Report all Poachers and Polluters (R.A.P.P.):** 1-877-952-7277
- Emergency Management BC:** 1-800-663-3456
- Search and Rescue BC:** www.bcsara.com



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations



BC Forest Safety Council

Unsafe is Unacceptable

www.bcforestsafe.org

RESOURCE ROAD USER SAFETY GUIDE



This brochure describes what you may expect on resource roads and describes general driving guidelines; follow them and contribute to the safety of all resource road users.

Version 2.0 Mar, 2013



RESOURCE ROADS

Resource roads are constructed to develop and protect B.C.'s natural resources. They're used primarily by industrial vehicles engaged in forestry, mining, oil & gas or agriculture operations. Resource roads are not built to the same standard as highways. Consequently, resource road users must be aware of potential dangers.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Most resource roads are built from gravel and are narrow (in some cases they are only one lane wide). There may be encroaching roadside brush limiting visibility, soft shoulders, and little to no ditch. Road grades may be much steeper than you encounter on highways.

Resource roads might not have signs identifying hazards, or barriers at dangerous or steep road sections. Do not expect to see stop lights on resource roads.

Hazards you'll need to consider include: excessive speed; high traffic volumes; poor visibility due to smoke, fog or dust; passing or being passed on narrow roads; changing road surface conditions; freezing rain and snow; unmarked hazards; others failing to follow traffic control procedures; and wildlife.



PULL OUTS

Most resource roads have pull-outs built alongside the main driving surface; pull-outs may be located on either side of the road. It is OK to use a pull-out on the wrong side but only if there is no other place available. Make sure you do not cut off any road users if you cross the center to a pull-out. Use your two-way radio to advise oncoming traffic that you are "clear".

VEHICLE AND LOAD SIZE

Industrial vehicles and loads come in all shapes, sizes and travel varied speeds. Some industrial vehicles are **very** large, long and/or wide; you may need to clear out of their way. There might not be a pilot car ahead of large, long or wide vehicles.

Watch out for people on ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles, horses and bikes; be prepared for them around any corner. ATV operation is allowed on some roads; driver's license and insurance are generally required. ATV operators must follow the rules of the road including watching for and yielding to other traffic.

RESOURCE ROADS



BRIDGES

Most bridges on resource roads are one lane. Make sure you yield to oncoming traffic; it is better to pull over and let the other vehicle through - play it safe!

ROAD DAMAGE

Resource roads might not be in use year round; they may sustain damage due to frost, flooding, vandalism, etc. - damage might not be marked. Roads may be overgrown or not plowed; the road might not be drivable - even though you found it on a map or GPS.

Expect rough surfaces, potholes, sinkholes, washouts, water bars and cross ditches.

COMMUNICATION

Industrial traffic communicates using two-way radios; this is how drivers talk with each other - so they know to "clear" when a vehicle is heading towards them.

If you have a two-way radio, learn how to use it, ensure it is installed and working properly as well as programmed with the channels needed to communicate in areas you travel; follow communication instructions posted at the start of the road.

VANDALISM

Sometimes, signs on resource road are the target of vandalism; such behavior is unacceptable. Signs are in place to ensure the safety of all road users.

Please report vandalism, suspicious activity and perceived environmental damage to the company responsible for maintenance (posted at the start of the road), the MFLNRO or Crime Stoppers.

FOLLOW THE "3 C'S"

- C**autious
- C**ourtesy
- C**oncentration



DRIVING GUIDELINES

FOCUS ON DRIVING

- Keep your headlights and tail lights on.
- Turn down or turn off the stereo.
- Keep off of your mobile phone.
- Wait until you get to your destination, or pull over, if you are going to eat.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Follow the 3 C's — Caution, Courtesy and Concentration.

SEATBELTS

Seatbelts save lives! Always wear your seatbelt.

OBSERVE AND OBEY SIGNS

Take time to read and understand signs at the start of a resource road and along the way. Signs communicate important information about the road, radio frequency, traffic you can expect and active worksites or hazardous conditions - remember not all hazards are signed.

DRIVE TO ROAD CONDITIONS

When it's dusty or when roads are slippery, slow down so you can react to traffic, potholes, wildlife, changing road conditions and unexpected hazards.

Travel at a speed that allows you to stop within **half** of your range of sight (others need room to stop too).

STOP IN SAFE, VISIBLE LOCATIONS

If you must stop along an active road find a pull out; if there isn't one find a straight section that provides good visibility from both directions, and is wide enough for other traffic to pass; pull over onto the shoulder.

Avoid stopping in a curve or on the crest of a hill.

YIELD TO INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC

Large industrial vehicles can't manoeuvre as quickly as passenger vehicles - give these vehicles room so workers can safely do their job; let them go ahead.



DRIVING GUIDELINES

STAY ALERT

- Be prepared for unexpected conditions.
- Road conditions may change rapidly.
- Be prepared to stop quickly and safely.
- Dust means traffic.

DRIVE SAFE SPEEDS

Always use caution.

- Some resource roads do not have posted speed limits; it's the **driver's responsibility** to travel speeds reflective of road conditions.
- If not otherwise posted, the maximum speed on a resource road in BC is 80 km/hr.
- When limits are posted, you must obey them; these limits are enforceable.
- Do not overtake industrial vehicles unless the driver pulls over and signals that it is safe to pass.
- You must be able to stop safely in any emergency or when encountering hazards.
- Take the time to plan your trip. Allow additional travel time so you will arrive on time or early to your destination.
- Avoid travelling resource roads in the dark.



TWO-WAY RADIO

The "road" channel is the radio frequency posted at the start of the road. It's used for communicating location, a hazard or emergency on a resource road.

- Do a radio check to ensure its working and you are on the right channel.
- Observe and follow posted rules or directions.
- Radios are pre-programmed. Know where you are travelling and ask your radio shop if the right channels are in your radio.
- If you don't have a two-way radio, wait at the beginning of the road for a vehicle that does. Follow behind that vehicle, pulling over if it does.
- Don't try to keep up, drive the speed appropriate for conditions, your knowledge and skill level.

SMOKING, GARBAGE & WILDFIRES

- Don't start a forest fire - make sure you use an ash tray and thoroughly extinguish other flames or sparks.
- Keep trash inside your vehicle, look in the box of your pick-up to make sure there are no loose items that could fly out.
- Report Forest Fires!