



## Resource road driving tips for light trucks



It is important that you use every tool in your driver's toolbox to negotiate resource roads with the highest level of safety with respect to yourself and other users.

Every piece of terrain and road is different. It varies daily with weather conditions, other users, the season, road surface material and condition and more. If you can identify some of these differences, then you can adjust your driving style and strategy to safely handle your vehicle in variable conditions.

### Here are some key strategies to consider:

Before you even get into your vehicle, consider your personal attitude and temperament which can ultimately affect how you drive. If you are tired, under pressure of production or work, had an argument with your partner, not feeling 100% - these things can change how you will act and react as a driver.

Next, consider the contents of your vehicle. Is it fully loaded with equipment or people? Does someone want the sound system turned up? Are there loud conversations happening? Having an environment that allows the driver to hear the VHF radio, the vehicle's mechanics and the road itself help the driver to evaluate the current conditions and adjust accordingly.

Take a look at the following conditions that also affect safety and the choices drivers need to make:

### » **Seat belts**

Although it's required by law, fatalities still continue to occur in the forest industry as a result of failing to wear seatbelts. Ensure that you and all of your passengers are belted-up prior to driving.

### » **Frost lines**

Observe the road surface for freezing, particularly in shaded zones that don't get sun until later in the day or even at all.

### » **Snow**

Snow density changes dramatically depending on the season, weather, freezing levels, wind compression, sun, etc. Open areas that are affected by wind can accumulate more snow. You will need to consider shaded zones that have more snow as well as avalanche zones.

### » **Hills**

Understanding how the terrain varies will help you adjust your driver speed, gearing and so on, to negotiate different pitches more efficiently and safely. Regularly scan long distances ahead, across valleys and anywhere that allow more open views of the upcoming terrain.

### » **Dust**

In summer, dust on resource roads is a major challenge, but it can also be useful in determining whether there is traffic on the road. By looking for dust clouds, this can indicate traffic further up the road and help determine if it is coming towards you. Sometimes the size of a dust cloud can indicate the size and speed of vehicles.

### » **Low sun**

Low sun in the morning or evening can present visual challenges. Wearing the correct eyewear, adjusting your speed and even positioning your vehicle can help increase safety. It is also important to remember the position of the sun directly behind you will also cause challenges for drivers coming towards you, so be mindful of their conditions as well.

### » **Corners**

Treat every corner uniquely as the characteristics of a corner like camber and pitch dramatically affect how to steer and the speed needed to safely drive around the corner. Expect oncoming traffic around every corner and always position your vehicle on the right side of the road to avoid a collision.

### » **Soft road shoulders**

Firmness and traction levels often change on resource roads. The shoulder of a resource road is rarely driven on and is

often a lot softer than the main surface. This can present a challenge if your wheels end up on a soft shoulder, potentially grabbing the tires and causing the vehicle to pull further off the road.

#### » **Near sight, future sight**

Being a visually conscious driver allows you to gauge important information about the road you are travelling on. It is important to focus on the road just ahead of the hood of your vehicle, but also to look as far down the road as possible. That can mean looking across a valley, or through breaks in treelines or terrain. This ability to build a complete picture of the road ahead will help you understand the upcoming challenges and make your drive safer.

#### » **Vehicle type**

Every vehicle is different. The size, load, capacity and contents of the vehicle will affect the vehicle's specific location on the road it is travelling on, how fast it can go, its stopping distance and its ability to negotiate the road. It is important to understand your vehicle, but it is equally as important to evaluate all vehicles around you and how they may react.

#### » **User types for resource road**

Every road is different which means every road needs to be driven accordingly. You need to continually adjust to changing road conditions rather than driving on "autopilot". Roads vary in grade, surface type, width, severity, etc. Driving the correct vehicle and using the right driver aids such as 4x4 traction control and proper tires can assist you in a safe journey.

#### » **Load**

The amount, position and integrity of the vehicle's load whether it is passengers, equipment and/or product, play a large part in how your vehicle will handle. You may want to consider choosing lighter loads with more frequent journeys as a safer, more successful option.

#### » **Maintenance**

Following a regular maintenance schedule will help prevent major problems before they occur and can avoid leaving you stranded on the side of a resource road.

#### » **Suspension / vehicle noise**

Listening to your vehicle as you drive can provide a lot of information on its integrity and performance. Throughout your drive, the vehicle will have a fairly consistent mechanical noise in terms of air flow, engine noise and tire noise. Listening to mechanical noise changes can be an indication of loads shifting, changes in traction levels, possible mechanical issues and so on. If your vehicle does breakdown, ensure that you have taken all precautions prior to attempting to diagnose or fix the problem. In forestry, between 2015 and 2019, there have been six fatalities resulting from working under or around vehicles. In most of these cases, the operator failed to secure the vehicle before attempting work under or near equipment.

Considering all of these factors, it is important to adjust your driving to each variable accordingly. A road and its conditions can change without warning as you travel throughout the day. Stay alert and stay safe.

*Article submitted by OverlandingBC. For more information on the Resource Road Light Truck Driver Course, please refer to [www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/2541](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/2541)*

## **Other Resources:**

- Lock Out Resource Package: [www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/res\\_Lockout.pdf](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/res_Lockout.pdf)
- Working Safely Under Vehicles: [www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/3230](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/3230)
- Chock It – Block It – Lock It Safety Alert: [www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/1337](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/1337)
- WorkSafeBC Safety Bulletin: [www.worksafefbc.com/en/resources/health-safety/hazard-alerts/improperly-secured-vehicles](http://www.worksafefbc.com/en/resources/health-safety/hazard-alerts/improperly-secured-vehicles)
- "Lockout and Live" Poster: [www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/ps\\_LockOutAndLivePoster.pdf](http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/files/ps_LockOutAndLivePoster.pdf) 🗺️





# Training

## Safety training for workers and companies

The BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) supports the development of a confident, competent and well-trained work force, where safety is integrated into every action and process to maximize safe, effective and efficient performance.

More than 19,500 workers have received training from BCFSC since the Council's inception. Help improve and enhance workplace safety for your crew by registering for our industry-developed training courses:



### Forest Supervisor Training

*Due Diligence (module 1)* - Supervisors will gain knowledge of their legal responsibilities and how to prove due diligence.

*Communications (module 2)* - This session will assist supervisors and managers in improving their communication skills and methods at work.

*Leadership and Professionalism (module 3)* - Helping supervisors to understand their strengths and weaknesses, and recognize how their personal style impacts the workers they are responsible for.

[www.bcforestsafes.org/node/98](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/98)



### Incident Investigation Training

Learn about the methods, tools, and processes needed to conduct an incident investigation. Suitable for individuals such as joint committee members or supervisors. [www.bcforestsafes.org/node/3215](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/3215)



### Joint Health and Safety Committee Training

Provides JHSC fundamentals for harvesting and manufacturing operations. Meets regulatory requirements for new committee members and worker health and safety representatives. [www.bcforestsafes.org/node/3041](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/3041)



### Falling Supervisor Training



Learn the roles and responsibilities of a falling supervisor, and become familiar with processes used by a falling supervisor to support their due diligence.



Designed for falling supervisors and for individuals who oversee falling activities. Falling experience, or a broad understanding of falling hazards and the means to control them, is recommended. [www.bcforestsafes.org/node/2216](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/2216)

### SAFE Companies Training

This training prepares individuals to become SAFE and COR program auditors, enabling them to submit the associated SAFE and COR audits. Various options are available depending on size of the operation being audited. [www.bcforestsafes.org/node/3214](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/3214)



### Other training courses available through the BC Forest Safety Council:



**Basic Chainsaw Operator**  
[www.bcforestsafes.org/basic\\_chainsaw](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/basic_chainsaw)



**New Faller Training**  
[www.bcforestsafes.org/node/90](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/90)



**Resource Road Light Truck Driver**  
[www.bcforestsafes.org/node/2541](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/2541)



**Forestry Safety Overview**  
[www.bcforestsafes.org/node/2904](http://www.bcforestsafes.org/node/2904)

### Training by Request

Is your operation interested in hosting a training session? We can deliver the training you want, where and when you need it. All our training is delivered on a not-for-profit, cost-recovery basis, saving you money. Email us at [training@bcforestsafes.org](mailto:training@bcforestsafes.org) for details, or call toll free 1-877-741-1060.

### Participant feedback

BCFSC collects and reviews feedback carefully to continually improve materials and ensure training meets the needs and expectations of participants. Below is a selection of 2019 feedback:



*"I know more about my responsibilities and hopefully I'll be a better supervisor"* Forest Supervisor – Due Diligence Module

*"Experienced instructor, knows his stuff. Well-designed materials."* Basic Incident Investigation Course

*"This training changed how I drive at work."* Resource Road Light Truck Driver Course

*"I am much more aware of hazards thanks to this course."* Basic Chainsaw Operator Course 🍀