

Hayes Urges Safe Travel in the Working Forest

Duncan, BC – As summer approaches, Hayes Forest Services Limited would like to remind all recreational forest users of some crucial safety tips. “We are concerned that the public know how to use forest roads safely, especially now that we are operating seven days a week,” says Hayes President Donald P. Hayes.

Safe Use of Forest Roads

Travelling on forest roads is very different from travelling on public highways and roadways. You must always be on the alert to expect the unexpected. For your own safety, drive with extreme caution at all times – especially when passing through active logging areas.

- > Check your vehicle, fuel and supplies before starting out
- > Wear your seatbelt
- > Only travel on roads that you are sure that your vehicle is equipped to handle
- > Expect to encounter logging equipment at any time – 24 hours a day / 7 days a week
- > Drive with your headlights on to make yourself more visible – particularly under dusty conditions
- > Obey all traffic laws
- > Obey posted speed limits and all other posted signage – do not enter areas where falling and blasting signs are posted
- > Yield to the right of any logging trucks or industrial equipment
- > Do not pass a logging truck or other logging vehicle until signalled by the driver
- > Take special care at single-lane bridges
- > Do not leave your vehicle unattended on roadways – park well off the travelled portion of the road if you must stop along the way
- > Watch for fallen rock, downed trees, blind corners and animals on the road. Stay with your vehicle if you encounter dangerous wildlife, particularly those with young.

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Active Prevention of Forest Fires

Each year, human carelessness causes about half of all forest fires. An escaped campfire, a smouldering match or a cigarette butt can start fires that destroy thousands of hectares of beautiful, valuable forest and risk life and property. These fires are preventable!

- > Use your ashtray. Do not smoke while walking.
- > Respect fire closures. Information about campfire bans can be found on the BC Ministry of Forests website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/
- > Ensure you are aware of and obey the Forest Fire Hazard Rating signs posted along the roadways (green = low hazard, yellow = moderate hazard, orange = high hazard, red = extreme hazard)
- > If you see a fire, report it immediately: 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 from a cell phone. This is the special toll free Provincial forest fires emergency number. Report the location, size and behaviour of the fire.

At Hayes, safety is the most important part of every work day. This philosophy extends to recreational forest users, such as hikers, mountain-bikers and four-wheelers. "Human safety and forest fire prevention are of utmost importance to us," continues Hayes.

Recognized in 2004 for the fourth consecutive year as one of "Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies", Hayes is the leading forest services provider in British Columbia. With the broadest service offering in the industry, Hayes has been known for innovation and integrity since 1922. Based in Duncan, British Columbia, Hayes continues to be privately held by the Hayes family.

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