



Be Attentive of the Drive



What appears to be safe, yet is deceptively hazardous in the forestry industry?

Service (wood) roads that get you there may have low traffic volumes and low speeds, but they have their share of roadway incidents.

Most of these roads are unpaved, narrow, steep and roughly maintained, so caution is needed every time they are navigated by wood truck operators, employees, supervisors and the general public.



This tragic accident illustrates the dangers of rough service roads:

A van was carrying a crew out of a remote oil field camp when it suddenly left the road and rolled several times. All the occupants were thrown from the vehicle and two were trapped beneath it. One person was killed and several others were seriously injured.

Witnesses stated the van met another vehicle that did not yield the right-of-way, forcing the van onto the soft shoulder of the narrow road.

Here are some reminders for safer travel on service roads:

- ✓ Watch for signs indicating the road is used by radio-controlled traffic. Use the correct radio frequency to communicate with other vehicles, and follow all procedures including regular radio checks. Confirm where other vehicles are before entering sections of the road where conflicts can occur.
- ✓ Be aware of what kind of vehicle is approaching. A loaded truck may take a long distance to stop.
- ✓ Maintain control of your vehicle at all times. On downhill grades, make sure you can stop at a moment's notice. Drive at safe speeds, taking into account the possibility of ice, mud and loose gravel.
- ✓ Drive with your lights on during the day. Visibility may be poor because of dust in dry months.
- ✓ Yield to loaded equipment. Pull over and stop if necessary, and let big trucks pass. Proceed only after the dust clears.
- ✓ Never drive drowsy. Get proper sleep and rest prior to driving to and from your destination.
- ✓ Always wear your seat belt.
- ✓ Carry a first aid kit and fire extinguisher in case of an emergency. A survival kit with food, water and warm clothing is also a good idea.

Remember, expect the unexpected around every corner.

Be Safe!