

DISTRICT MANAGER INFORMATION NOTICE

RADIO COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS BEING IMPLEMENTED ON FSRS

This letter is to advise of pending changes to radio communication protocols for forest service roads in the Chilliwack Natural Resource District.

Standard resource road radio communications protocols are being implemented in the district following successful outcomes of pilot projects examining whether road user safety could be improved through standardized protocols for mobile radio communications when travelling on resource roads in BC. The pilot projects consisted of implementing: standardized radio communications signage, a block of dedicated resource road radio channels, and standardized call procedures. The pilots occurred on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and in the South Peace areas of the province.

The standard resource road radio communications protocol, radio channels and signs were developed by the radio communications working group, with representatives from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (including BC Timber Sales), Industry Canada, BC Forest Safety Council/Truck Safe and FPInnovations. The working group coordinated numerous meetings with forest licensees and truck drivers in developing the protocol. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations lead the implementation and evaluation of the pilot projects. Industry Canada is taking the greater lead role as implementation of the standard protocols spreads to other areas of the province.

Previously, mobile radio communications has been highly variable across the province with users required to know the unwritten local protocols. Truckers and other road users with mobile radios needed to reprogram their radios to gain access to local radio channels as they moved around to different work locations. In the pilot areas, a single set of radio channels was used on forest service roads. New communications signs posted on the pilot roads indicate which radio channel to use, calling interval, direction being travelled and vehicle type.

The pilot projects were successful and the new standard protocols are being gradually expanded from the original pilot areas into other areas of the province. Districts on the Coast, Cariboo, Southern and Northern Interior have already transitioned or are currently transitioning.

The **Chilliwack Natural Resource District** is transitioning to the standard protocols for forest service roads, including standard signs, standard banks of radio channels and standard call procedures. Transition to the new channels will commence on **November 16th**, **2015**. Transition will be gradual and road users will see new signs with new radio channels posted along with updated call procedures. Road users with mobile radios should use the posted channels and call protocols. All road users are reminded that forest service roads are not radio controlled but that they are radio assisted and should drive safely according to the road conditions and weather.

For further information, please contact the Engineering Department at (604) 702-5700 or visit our website (including radio communications protocol radio channels, standardized signs and interactive map):

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dck/Engineering/RR_RadioChannels.htm

A summary report of the pilot projects, produced by FPInnovations, as well as other information pertaining to resource road radio communications province wide can be found by visiting: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/engineering/Road_Radio_Project.htm.