



Introduction to Safe Practices on Resource Roads

Background

British Columbia has more than 400,000 kilometres of resource roads, most of which are on Crown or public land. These roads (often referred to as industrial roads) are used by industries such as forestry, oil and gas, and mining. They are also used for other commercial purposes as well by the public for access to recreational areas.

The ever-expanding need to transport product and equipment, and high levels of industrial activity, have created a serious safety issue for all users of resource roads. To reduce the risk and provide a safer workplace, all stakeholders must be aware of their roles, duties, and obligations in using and managing resource road systems, including owners, prime contractors, workers and members of the public.

Overview

To assist field officers in assessing the occupational health and safety duties and obligations of all stakeholders involved in managing and using resource roads, WorkSafeBC has created two documents that provide information and guidance with respect to safety responsibility as prescribed by the *Workers' Compensation Act* of British Columbia. The two documents include:

- *Resource Road Safety Practices (RRSP)* provides detailed information and guidance for developing, implementing, and maintaining a system of resource road safety management that will contribute to keeping resource roads safer for all users. It focuses on the key obligations of stakeholders and provides recommendations as to how stakeholders should work together to keep roads safe and maintained.
- *Resource Roads Compliance Field Officer Guide* is a companion document that provides more operational information on determining roles and responsibilities for given circumstances. This document (Infoflip) includes various scenarios to assist in determining ownership on resource roads. It also features a variety of reference documents that provide more information on resource road ownership, various stakeholders, and obligations.

The following paragraphs provide a guide to the content and use of *Resource Road Safety Practices (RRSP)*, although some of the material is relevant to the Infoflip.

Relevant Law and Policy

The law relevant to resource road safety can be found in sections 115 to 119 of the *Workers Compensation Act* and parts of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. Applicable policy can be found on the WorkSafeBC web site (WorkSafeBC.com).

Scope

Resource Road Safety Practices (RRSP) defines roads as workplaces; therefore, industrial users have the standard obligations of Owners, Employers, and Workers as specified in the Act. Other stakeholder categories, such as Licensees, Maintenance Contractors, and Prime Contractors, are also discussed.

Structure and Content

Resource Road Safety Practices (RRSP) covers the basic obligations outlined in sections 115–119 of the Act as they relate to each stakeholder.

The document is organized by colour codes and sections that identify each stakeholder and indicate the various responsibilities and topics.

- There are separate sections for each stakeholder.
- At the top of each section, the first row below the headings identifies general obligations for a specific stakeholder under the Act.
- The left-hand headings outline the principles of Scope, Planning, Application and Care, Training and Communication, Supervision and Direction, and Sample Documents in rows.
- Red text emphasizes prime obligations under the Act for a specific stakeholder.
- Yellow sections describe the obligations of each stakeholder as they pertain to management of roads.
- Purple sections describe responsibilities of each stakeholder as they pertain to Employers, Workers/Drivers/Operators, and Road Users.

The content is built on the four categories integral to safe use of resource roads: roads, loads, trucks, and drivers. Information in the document can be accessed in a number of ways. Readers can select a specific obligation and follow the information down through that column.

For example, Owners select an obligation such as “Provide the land and premises in a safe condition. This includes the road and related areas that may influence safe travel or use of the road.” Owners then select Scope and Intent from the left-hand headings, which together provide an explanation of how to

- Plan to meet the obligation
- Apply it in the workplace
- Ensure others are trained and aware of the method of application
- Supervise to ensure application is occurring
- Identify, create, and use sample documents that describe and/or record meeting the responsibility of due diligence

Resource Road Safety Practices (RRSP) can also be read across, by following one row through all the obligations. This gives stakeholders a full picture of what they should have in place for each given principle.

Conversely, the reader may wish to look at one obligation and one principle, and then determine what each stakeholder should be doing to apply or support a specific issue, such as planning the support of coordination on a Multiple Employer Workplace. In this case, the reader would select the obligation at the top of the column and follow down to the Planning row.