



WOODS' ROAD

VARYING CONDITIONS OF A WOODS' ROAD

FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY: Dirt and lack of other traffic can sometimes lend itself to risky behavior. Danger lurks along the road in the form of hills, unexpected curves and ditches that can pop up out of nowhere.

CULVERTS: Culverts can wash out creating dangerous conditions ahead. Weather can have a huge impact on the road when traveling through the woods. Rain can create greasy conditions causing your rig to slip and slide.

WATER: Water can accumulate in areas hiding the actual depth of the hole below.

RAIN AND SNOW: Travel with caution during rainy or snowy weather to avoid causing damage to your rig.

SNOW AND ICE: Snow and ice may exist in areas where there isn't anyone to sand, so extreme caution should be exercised in areas where conditions are less than average.

LACK OF LIGHTING: Lack of lighting can add to the danger of navigating the woods' road. During rainstorms, mud can splash up, dimming the headlights with dirt which cuts down on the visibility. Navigate at these times with extreme caution for an oncoming vehicle may not see you approaching. Use caution.

WOOD ROAD MAINTENANCE: If your company is maintaining the woods' road, you would want to report to your crew supervisors when maintenance is needed. Keeping the roads in tip top shape, not only cuts down on the wear and tear to your vehicle it also reflects the professionalism present on a logging job. Watch for dirt accumulating on the main road after leaving the woods road. Your company will be responsible for keeping the road clean, or possibly installing an apron at the entrance to the woods' road to minimize the trail of dirt. Excessive dust can be handled by company or hired water trucks. This helps keep the grime off the trucks and equipment as well as showing the nearby neighbors that our industry cares. Showing respect for the public will always help to improve their opinion of the logging industry.

PROPER WOODS' ROADS COMMUNICATION

THE TWO RESPONSIBLE GROUPS: Proper woods' road communication breaks down into two responsible groups, Owners/Foresters and Truck Drivers/Equipment Operators. Owners and Foresters are responsible for ensuring there are woods' road communication policies and procedures in place. Then training equipment operators and truck drivers on those policies and procedures. Forestry transportation professionals are provided with radio channel signals and signs, mile markers, logging road signs and no public access signs.

SUPPLYING FUNCTIONING RADIO AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Drivers will also be supplied with functioning radio or communication equipment. Truck drivers and equipment operators' responsibilities include attending wood road communication policy and procedure training, learn, and follow policies and procedures for communicating on woods' roads, and learn how to test and use communication equipment.

DRIVERS: You must drive slowly, stay alert, communicate upon entering and exiting, and at all mile markers.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS KEY: Effective communication between driver and equipment operators will keep drivers and operator as safe as possible when working on the landing. Communicating hazards or near misses can be the key to maintain a safe job site, one without injuries or deaths.

TIPS FOR WOODS' ROAD DRIVING

STRIVE TO BE THE BEST DRIVER YOU CAN BE: Drive slowly so you can navigate curves and broad-based dips, check for trailer tracking. Watch out for water bars, stumps, holes, soft shoulders, and ditches. Be sure whatever you are traveling over can handle the weight of your rig, trailer and load, bridges, and culverts. Do not attempt to travel on roads that are excessively rutted, washed out, curve too sharply or in any way unsafe to drive. Always make sure you have adequate clearance above and below your rig.

Team Safe Trucking's mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.



WOODS' ROAD

WOODS' ROAD & THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC: The public will venture onto woods' roads sometimes not truly understanding the level of danger that exists from swift moving log or chip haulers. You may find yourself encountering some of the following while traveling in the woods, ATV's, dirt bikes, hikers, hunters, snowmobilers, and just curious travelers who decided to go for a scenic drive. So, use caution, drive slowly and be alert for the public and most of all be prepared to stop unexpectedly.

MINIMIZE THE RISK: When it is your company's wood road, here are some preventative measures to take to minimize the risk of deadly encounters:

- Post no-hunting signs
- Utilize caution tape at the end of trails and roads
- Post signs at entry points to the woods' road
- Place logs at the end of trails
- Use logging signs as necessary to warn the public

ESTABLISHING A WORK ZONE: It is a good idea to establish a work zone around the woods' road when it is a short trip to the landing. There are various signs available through industry catalogues that work to warn the public of trucks entering and exiting. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) will advise you on the adequate spacing and placement of caution signs.

WOODS' ROAD MAINTENANCE

STAYING ON TOP OF YOUR GAME: When it comes to woods' road maintenance, staying on top of your game is an important way to prevent accidents and injuries.

HAVE A REPORTING SYSTEM IN PLACE: If you are an owner or forester, come up with plan that covers woods' road maintenance issues and a system for reporting and handling issues. Proactive maintenance can save trucks wear and tear and keep the wood flowing smoothly. Inspect them regularly and recognize when key issues need to be tended to, to prevent accidents and breakdowns that can lead to downtime.

PERIODIC INSPECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT: Drivers, Foresters and Owners, it is in your best interest to conduct periodic inspections of woods' roads. Once during wet seasons, once during dry seasons, after any heavy rainstorms and after snowstorms. During the inspection you want to examine the roadbed, the road surface, cut banks, fill slopes, stream crossings, surface drainage structures and snowbanks.

Check for some of these signs that indicates maintenance is needed.

- gravel running off,
- rainwater pooling in the road,
- deep ruts,
- areas where gravel is beginning to be pushed down into soft soil,
- mud draining into creeks,
- culverts or inlets clogged with branches and leaves,
- sinking roadbeds where the sides are lower than the sides of the road,
- snowbanks melting quickly and water accumulating in roads

WOOD ROAD MAINTENANCE: Woods' Road maintenance may include any of the following:

- re-grading
- installation of water bars
- ground cover work
- adding gravel
- using geotextile

Name: _____

Date: _____

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