

WHAT LOG TRANSPORT DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WORKPLACE MVIS

An aging workforce and a shortage of drivers are among the many challenges facing today's log transport drivers in BC. To keep these drivers healthy, safe and on the road, the industry is finding solutions for addressing road safety and enhancing return-to-work programs for injured workers.

Between 2010 and 2019, motor vehicle incidents (MVIS) accounted for 30 per cent of time-loss claims for log transport drivers accepted by WorkSafeBC, with 166 of these claims categorized as a serious injury. During this same period, on average, serious injury claims for log transport drivers cost almost \$130,000 with 156 days of time lost.

Compared with an average time-loss claim for all industries, an MVI claim costs more than twice as much and lasts almost six weeks longer. The cost of an MVI may also impact an employer's

experience rating. If drivers are injured in MVIS while driving on the job, this may likely be within the jurisdiction of WorkSafeBC. If a person is driving for work when they are involved in an MVI, they may be asked to initiate the claim process with WorkSafeBC.

When a person is involved in an MVI while working, it is best practice to report the MVI to both WorkSafeBC and ICBC.

When should an injured worker report an MVI to WorkSafeBC and ICBC?

When a person is involved in an MVI while working, it is best practice to report the MVI to both WorkSafeBC and ICBC. If the MVI involved another party who wasn't considered to be working at the time of the incident, the injured worker may have the right to choose whether

they claim their injury-related benefits with ICBC or WorkSafeBC.

For example, consider the following scenarios:

Scenario 1: A worker is marshalling a logging truck between yards and fails to

negotiate a tight corner on the highway. The truck rolls over the embankment and the worker is injured. This is likely within the jurisdiction of WorkSafeBC.

Scenario 2: A worker driving a loaded logging truck meets a working service truck unexpectedly on a narrow switch-back road. The service truck moves to



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the uphill side of the road and the logging truck driver attempts to pass, but the downhill shoulder of the road fails and the truck and its load roll down the bank. The log transport driver is injured. Since both drivers are working at the time of the incident, this scenario is likely within the jurisdiction of WorkSafeBC.

Scenario 3: A worker driving an unloaded logging truck on a rural road hits a patch of ice, spins out and collides with a pickup truck driven by someone who was not working at the time. Although the worker is deemed at fault due to excessive speed and failure to drive for conditions, this does not preclude the worker from being eligible to apply for a claim with WorkSafeBC.

Scenario 4: A non-worker driving a van on the highway is distracted by a text

message, crosses the centre line of a highway and collides with a loaded logging truck in the oncoming lane. This MVI involved a worker and non-worker, which means the injured worker has a choice to elect a claim with WorkSafeBC or ICBC.

The WorkSafeBC Claims team will advise injured workers and explain all of their options to them. As WorkSafeBC does not cover costs for damages to equipment, such as vehicles, a driver may need to coordinate with WorkSafeBC for their injury claim and ICBC for their vehicle damage claim.

Preventing the personal and financial costs of MVIs

Investing in road safety strategies is smart business and it's also the right thing to do. Employers need to assess the hazards their drivers face on and off the road and then implement training, policies and

procedures to mitigate the risks. MVIs are preventable; by investing in road safety, employers can reduce both the personal and financial costs of MVIs.

To help reduce the risk of workplace MVIs, WorkSafeBC's Road Safety At Work website (roadsafetyatwork.ca) provides free resources to employers, supervisors and drivers including online courses, webinars, workshops and consulting services, and templates for policies, procedures, and tool box meetings.

We're here to help

For claims information visit worksafebc.com/claims or call 1-888-967-5377.▲

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