

CHH
forests SAFETY RED ALERT
ROAD CONTROL - GETTING IT RIGHT!



Over the last couple of months there have been a number of reports come through involving vehicles and trucks entering 'Operations' which have had 'Road Closure' signage and procedures in place. This is a timely reminder to everyone involved whether you are closing a road due to a 'hazardous operation' or you need to 'access through' an area of road closure.

'Procedure' for secondary forest roads with low volumes of forest

related traffic and no public access where 'flagman' are not required.

1. "Type of Operation" and "Road Closed" signs shall be erected.
2. The "Road Closed" sign shall be set on the carriageway in a position that blocks traffic from passing.
3. A visible barrier (e.g. warning or hazard tape), shall be placed across the entire roadway immediately behind the "Road Closed" signs blocking traffic from passing. Road users must be made to get out of their vehicle to go through.
4. A notice clearly explaining the procedure for contacting the operation should be erected adjacent to the roadway. E.g. Instruction to use R/T accompanied by radio call signs and channels.
5. The operation closing the road shall ensure the system in place for gaining permission to proceed past "Road Closed" signs shall be adhered to and enforced.
6. When roadside operations are finished the "Road Closed" sign shall be taken down and the tape removed.

Road Users

1. No person shall proceed through a "Road Closed" barrier without ensuring they have first gained the (verbal) authority to proceed from the person whose operation closed the road. eg. tree faller, helicopter pilot, machine operator.
2. Whoever gives the approval for a vehicle to proceed must ensure they have first gained the authority of the individual whose work has closed the road.
3. The person proceeding through the "Road Closed" barrier should double check that the individual whose work closed the road knows they are coming through.
4. The person proceeding through the "Road Closed" barrier must place all signs back exactly how they found them.

Note; A forest industry working group including OSH & Transit has been working on an OSH approved 'Best Practice Guideline' (BPG) for 'Road Traffic Control' in forests. The work is all but complete and includes standard signage which will be a 'national requirement' when closing roads. All Suppliers are advised to hold off purchasing any new signage till the BPG is published. Any queries please contact Dave Adams, 0274846858.