

Forest Industry Safety Alert

Kenworth's Nautilus navigation system interfering with Resource Road Radio Channel 13

Location: Prince George area

Date: August 31, 2015

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident: A contractor in Prince George operates a fleet of 5 Kenworth heavy trucks, all equipped with Kenworth's Nautilus navigation system. Drivers of these particular trucks have reported that when their radio is on Resource Road channel 13, all they hear over the radio is squelch noise.

The radios transmit fine – others can hear the transmissions unless they're also driving a Kenworth that features the Nautilus navigation system. The contractor is currently using the TAD M10 radio and has also tested with an ICOM and found the same problem. The contractor reports that all other resource road radio channels are working and appear unaffected.

The contractor went to the shop where the radios were purchased. The shop identified that the Nautilus navigation system creates a harmonic frequency that can cause interference with radio use. The problem does not occur when the navigation system is turned-off.

Corrective Actions:

- The contractor has installed an On/Off switch in his fleet of Kenworth trucks that allows the navigation system to be shut off while operating on resource roads which stops the interference from the system and allows the mobile radio to function properly.
- Kenworth, the navigation system manufacturer, Industry Canada and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations have been advised of this issue.
- Results of investigations shall be provided as they are available.

Item to Note:

- MFLNRO should be informed of interference issues that are not isolated to particular, single vehicles but appear to be widespread, so that they can be addressed and necessary fixes can be communicated out to users.

For more information on this submitted alert: Transportation and Northern Safety, BC Forest Safety Council – Prince George (toll free 877-741-1060) or Transport@bcforestsafe.org