



A WorkSafeBC Partnership Initiative



Introducing: The Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor of BC

BC's and Canada's first designated highway safety corridor

The Fraser Canyon, the gateway to the east and north of B.C., 192 kilometres long, is one of the most scenic highways in Canada. The Canyon, which was the beginning of the historic Gold Rush Trail, follows the mighty Fraser River through Hell's Gate and beyond.

This mountainous highway requires an alert, cautious driver familiar with the requirements of driving in adverse conditions which include steep hills, tight curves, and a variety of weather and road conditions.

In 1997, the Fraser Canyon Traffic Safety Committee was formed to act as an advisory group to deal with safe transportation and obtain input from communities and agencies that work and reside along this highway. The Committee believed that one of the most significant causes of serious and fatal collisions was aggressive driving. A project team was formed to research methods to address the needs in the Canyon. As a result of the findings, the Fraser Canyon Watch program was established in 2000.

The Fraser Canyon Watch program was modeled after other successful "Record and Report" programs in B.C. and involved a partnership with police, local and provincial governments, Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), Telus as well as local businesses and communities. Posters and stickers were developed and placed in phone booths, truck stops, restaurants and all points of business. In 2003, highway signs encouraged motorists to record and report aggressive driving behaviour to the police.

This highway does not have cell phone coverage, so the program encouraged motorists who witnessed aggressive driving behaviour to record the pertinent information, pull into one of the community's businesses, and call 1-888-801-8884. Hope Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Highway Patrol committed resources to house the telephone line and follow up on information received.

Early in 2004, the committee noted an increase in the rate of heavy commercial vehicle crashes and, as a result, the Fraser Canyon Truck Crash Review Committee (FCTCRC) was formed to review the available statistics, to conduct further research and to develop a plan for reducing the number of incidents in the Canyon.

The collision histories of Highway 1 (Hope to Cache Creek), Highway 3 (Hope to Princeton), and Highway 5 (Hope to Merritt), from 1996–2002 were compared. Research revealed that Highway 1 had the highest number of crash incidents resulting in serious injury and fatality.

The B.C. Highway safety corridor – June 2006

Based on a three-E approach (Engineering, Education, and Enforcement) Fraser Canyon Traffic Safety Committee and the Fraser Canyon Truck Crash Review Committee implemented the following:



- ICBC provided over \$400,000 for shoulder rumble strips and other road improvements, including roadside delineation and barricades, overhead rollover signs and commissioned studies for engineering improvements at specific collision sites.
- The RCMP's Fraser Valley Traffic Services Department and Southern Interior Traffic Services in Ashcroft increased enforcement, focusing on speed and aggressive driving in critical areas with a proven collision history.
- The Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch of the Ministry of Transportation scheduled more vehicle safety checks.
- The Ministry of Transportation moved and changed speed advisory signs, and performed the roadwork funded by ICBC.
- WorkSafeBC, RCMP, ICBC and Bobell Group of Companies developed a Canyon Hazards survey, "Sharing the Road with Trucks" and the Fraser Canyon Road Hazards education and awareness plan.

These actions are the first steps in forming B.C. and Canada's first highway safety corridor. Future plans to expand the Highway Safety Corridor Program include:

- Refining the review process to measure the effectiveness of a highway safety corridor
- Continuing to work with ICBC and Ministry of Transportation to improve highway engineering along the Canyon
- Publicizing the RCMP's commitment to patrol for traffic offenders along the corridor
- Publicizing the Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor at truck pull-outs, Tourism BC sites and popular truck stops along the Canyon.

The long-term plan is to use the Canyon as a model to develop a Highway Safety Corridor Program Toolkit for other highways in the province.



Shoulder Rumble Strip

TruckSafe believes that implementing initiatives such as the Fraser Canyon Highway Safety Corridor will have direct impact on serious injuries and deaths among all of BC's road users. Only through community partners can we improve the safety of the drivers, trucks and roads.