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## Coquihalla Chain-Up Advisory for Commercial Drivers

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure advises that commercial drivers who do not or cannot chain up their vehicles properly at the Box Canyon chain-up zone on the Coquihalla (Highway 5) as required by conditions risk being **turned around and/or having their vehicles towed at the carrier's expense.**

Box Canyon, which is between Hope and the former toll booths, southwest of the Great Bear Snowshed, is a particular safety challenge for drivers, maintenance crews and enforcement officers alike, in that it receives some of the most unpredictable weather in the province, becomes congested quickly when vehicles must chain up, and is close to a number of dangerous avalanche zones that must be kept clear from vehicle backups.

All commercial vehicles over 27,000 kg gross vehicle weight (GVW) must carry chains as of October 1 in BC. Over the years, the industry has improved compliance with chain-up requirements at Box Canyon and other locations significantly. According to the ministry, enforcement has previously focused on ensuring that drivers carry chains (five years ago this was major concern, but now less than 1 percent of commercial vehicles are cited for not carrying chains) and chain up when required (in focus three years ago). More recently, the focus has been on a lack of practice in installing chains among less experienced drivers.

This winter, the industry can assist in preventing problems at Box Canyon and other chain-up areas by requiring your drivers to do the following:

- Practice installation of chains in good weather prior to driving through a mountain pass. Inexperienced drivers who attempt to install chains for the first time in a chain-up area during a heavy snowfall are putting themselves, their equipment and their cargo at risk, not to mention other drivers.
- Immediately exit the truck at a chain-up area when chains are required, install the chains, and move on safely. Drivers who fail to stop when chains are required will be turned around or towed.
- Do not park in a chain-up area except to install chains.

You will find a chain-up notice showing the Box Canyon chain-up area and avalanche zones at [this link](#) for distribution to your drivers.

Chain up status is indicated on sign boards at strategic passes as well as from a link on the ministry's [Seasonal Driving Tips/Shift into Winter webpage](#). The webpage includes videos and other resources showing how to install tire chains. [DriveBC](#) is also an effective tool for drivers and dispatchers monitoring highway updates, as is [@DriveBC](#) on Twitter.

*BCTA is the recognised voice of the provincial motor carrier industry, representing over 800 truck and bus fleets and over 250 suppliers to the industry. Over 13,000 vehicles are operated by BCTA members in BC. BCTA operating members employ 26,000 people in BC and generate over \$2 billion in revenue in the province annually.*