

Mud on Public Highways

BACKGROUND

Wet ground and heavy trucks during logging and site preparation activities equals mud problems. Some areas of our state are more prone than others to this dilemma. Taking time to prepare a proper road entrance / exit is key to reducing problems. Consider a combination of well-known tools including mats, rocking, and road underlayment fabric to provide a solid surface prior to entering a paved road. When mud, dirt and debris does appear on the pavement then take immediate action to push and or wash the problem away. Shovel work may be in order. A farm tractor box blade does a good job of moving the large clods. Consider a small donation to the local volunteer fire department in return for some hose down work. Remember to post flagmen and proper signs when you are working on the highway and right of way to prevent accidents. No only is it a law, but your business image and the image of our entire industry is determined by what the public sees. Driving over muddy roads and avoiding drivers who swerve or brake suddenly to avoid the mess leaves an impression on the public that is hard to erase.

REGULATION

N.C. Administrative Code Section .0403 - Depositing Mud On State Highways states "No person operating a vehicle with dual wheels or a vehicle equipped with four wheel drive shall track or cause mud to be deposited on the paved portion of any state highway so as to create a hazard to the traveling public. Any person who causes or permits mud to be tracked or deposited by a vehicle with dual wheels of four wheel drive shall immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

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