

Machine Rollovers!



The importance of seatbelts, harnesses and head protection¹ while operating machinery even in seemingly safe conditions is clearly illustrated by the incident pictured above.

Lost Time Injury 9/07/17 (INC149): A harvester excavator was travelling out of a completed block on a heavily iced metal road to meet the transporter. It slipped sideways causing the machine to move toward the road edge. The machine then slid off the road and stopped abruptly. As the tracks dug into the ground it tipped-over. The operator, who was strapped in, was thrown into the side of the cabin. He suffered a concussion, a laceration to the back of his head, two fractured vertebrae, and a fractured wrist!

Machine rollovers have been increasing and not in the places you might think. A number have occurred due to ground conditions rather than slope, with ground giving way or the machine sliding before encountering further difficulties. So operating a machine is a very big responsibility!



Secure Objects in the Cabin!

Another source of concern is unsecured objects littering the cabin. A spanner, an extinguisher even a lunchbox can be a serious cause of harm during a rollover – when there is a rapid and violent movement. Take a look right now, and continue to promote good housekeeping!

¹ While not yet a rule in the ACoP, some contractors are currently trialling the use of strap on helmets for machine operators.

RISK – What is WorkSafe NZ saying?

Recently, [in relation to forklift deaths](#), WorkSafe NZ CEO Nicole Rosie said...

“...Any business using forklifts should have them high on their **critical risk list**, put appropriate controls in place and monitor them for effectiveness...”

“...It is **not good enough to put some lines of paint on the ground** and leave it at that. Businesses **must check** that their controls are working...” and further...

“...It’s important to **involve workers** in the risk analysis as they’re the ones who most often identify these risks before they cause a serious injury or a death...”



Managing Critical Risks – in Forestry!

While it is true that **managing risk** is a new way of thinking, it is clear from these remarks that ‘window dressing’ our old style **hazard management** is not the “evidence based targeting of critical risk” that Rosie is looking for.

The recent training course, ‘Managing Risk at Forestry Worksites’ helped us to understand the difference between a hazard and a risk. Looking at the forklift, it is actually the hazard! The risk is that the forklift will run over a person and this is the risk we must manage!

Speaking of risk management, have we...

- [] Looked at our operation with fresh eyes to identify all of our critical risks? ²
- [] Produced a list of “critical risks”? (This list depends on our operation type)
- [] Considered all of the **situations** (events, causes and triggers) where the risk increases e.g. unauthorised people inadvertently walking into an active machine zone?
- [] Worked our way through the **hierarchy of controls**, including all of the **prescribed management techniques** for our critical and “particular risks”?
- [] Demonstrated that we (and our workforce) are properly focused on our risks e.g. by producing and then regularly referring to a Critical Risk Management Map?

² This includes the relevant “Particular Risks” as identified in the General Risk and Workplace Management Regulations 2016.

Planting Season – knees and ankles!

Each year during the planting season, slips, trips and falls increase resulting in sprains and strains, with some leading to injuries that incur lost time or requiring surgery!

The planting season, which is typically 3 to 4 months in duration, furnishes our records with around 42 incidents. That equates to one incident every few days and most are slips, trips and falls. Some recent examples include:

- **Minor Injury** 04/07/17 (INC147): A Plotter slipped while setting up a QC plot. Started moving downhill and slipped on some slash landing heavily on tailbone.
- **Minor Injury** 13/07/17 (INC192): A tree planter stood in a hole while planting and twisted his knee, re-injuring a rugby injury from 3 months before.
- **Lost Time Injury** 17/07/17 (INC172): A worker stood on some slash, which did not hold his weight. He twisted his knee before falling onto the same knee, damaging it.



Planting sites have high levels of hindrance (logging slash and re-growth). This tends to obscure the holes and hollows that planters come across. **So what can we do to protect ourselves?**

- Training and supervision are vital – spending time showing workers the various hazards and how to approach them can certainly help avert or limit the risk!
- Tree planting is a very physically demanding job – adequate rest at night, good nutrition at home and at work, and decent breaks during the workday are vital.
- Quit alcohol and drugs – their after affects provide no help for any workers!
- Wash daily and treat minor cuts and scrapes promptly, before they become infected.
- Wear safety footwear with good support and take the time to be sure of your footing.
- Use experienced planters in riskier areas – no planter should work near slips or bluffs.
- Clear away undergrowth from each planting spot – a stitch in time saves nine!

Are You Carrying A Sports Injury!

Sports injuries, like work injuries are covered by ACC – from the ‘earners’ account. Please be sure to inform your employer of any sport injury. This helps them obtain the right assistance for you and (potentially) to place you on light duties until you are better.

Speeding – Noticable Improvement!

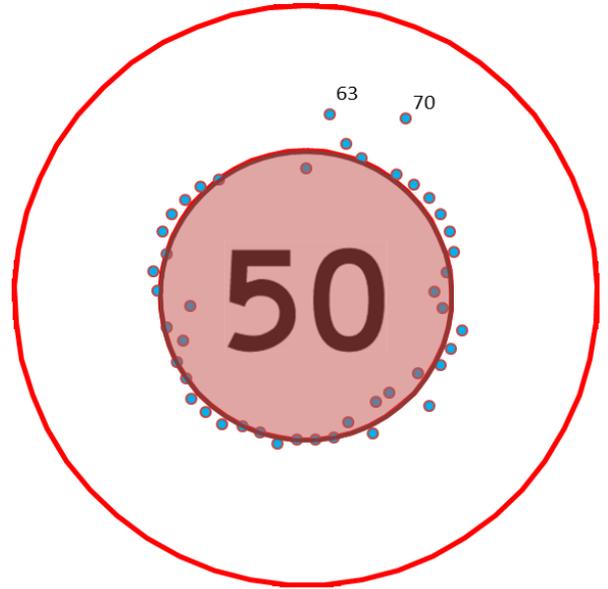
Great effort everyone!

Speeding and road incidents are top of our critical risk list, in fact for the whole forest industry.

Notwithstanding, reported driving incidents have certainly tapered off over the last few months, which is great news because they typically relate to near collisions with speed the key factor.

Recent ‘speed-trap’ work similarly shows good results as our **road sign graphic** indicates – most speed points are on or below the 50kph limit.

Note: the outliers (63 and 70kph) we recorded back in July when we raised the issue, which shows a good response to reminders.



Port-a-loos are Coming!



Don't run away too quickly! Port-a-loos are becoming more mainstream than you think and not just the domain of softies!

Toilet trial in your forest soon: Some forest companies have already made the move and we think it's high time to take the plunge. Commencing in September, five to ten Central North Island operations will be provided with a Port-a-loo for use at their sites. We will call for volunteers. The primary reason behind the trial is to test the system of delivery and cleaning, and to iron out any safety risks involved with having the toilets at our sites, or that are introduced by the Service Provider coming into the forest. **We are already convinced that it is a good idea.** We plan to report on what we have learned in our November Safety Bulletin and implement a programme by January the 1st 2018. We'll keep you informed!