

# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 36

<b>Date:</b> 13 October 2020	<b>Focus Group:</b> ATV Owners and Operators
<b>Topic:</b> ATV Use and PCBU Interactions	<b>Issued by:</b> Craig Fisher and Lawrie Scott

**Background and Incident:** Two pest control workers were shooting from a Light Utility Vehicle – an ATV – on a flat farm forest property. They had been on-site previously and were aware of the hazards, however, they were ‘spot-lighting’ – using a ‘red light’, which greatly reduced visibility. At 9:00pm they drove head-on into a 1-metre deep ditch, which was unmarked and hard to see in the long grass at night (see images).

**Injury Details:** The shooter, who was not belted in or wearing a helmet, lacerated his head on the roll cage and sprained his neck, requiring a stay in hospital for scans – LTI.

**Risk Awareness:** Rural land, including flat terrain, has numerous hazards that make ATV operation dangerous, and even more so in the dark or when using poor lighting.

**Safe Behaviours:** Our [Safe Op – All Terrain Vehicles \(ATV\)](#) in regard to S. 34 of the [HSW Act 2015](#) requires that the PCBU's “... pre-assess the tracks ... and travel areas” and “... agree on which sections may be used or not-used and record/mark such on the prescription map” along with any “... special hazards or conditions.” Such PCBU discussions should be well arranged and conducted in advance of operations. While operating an ATV at night for pest control purposes is permissible, shooting must only take place from a stationary vehicle. Additionally, operators/passengers must ensure that seatbelts, helmets, and safety boots are worn at all times when operating an ATV.

**For Site Manager:**

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on site notice board or in file:

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /  
(initials)



This photo shows the paddock; taken 25m back from the drain (identified by the red line), and from the same direction the LUV travelled in.