

25/10/2019

Farm Vehicle Fatality

5 October 2019

Incident overview

A 38-year-old man sustained fatal injuries after losing control and rolling a 4WD farm vehicle as he descended a steep hill at Yaven Creek, near Adelong, in the Riverina region of NSW.



Photograph 1: Site of the incident and vehicle involved

The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

Safety information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#).

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Consider 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks of using plant, such as farm vehicles, on steep terrain. Make sure:

- the vehicle is appropriate for the task and the terrain
- the vehicle is maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations
- you reduce the tyre pressure, to increase the traction
- you use seat belts and drive in low gear
- the load is secure and doesn't affect the vehicle's stability
- you assess the environmental conditions, knowing where there are rocks, trees, creeks and gullies, and where the ground is soft and rain-affected – consider walking the route before driving
- you have plan B if the terrain is too steep or the vehicle too unstable
- the driver is well-trained in using the vehicle for the task being undertaken.

Further information

You can also refer to the following guidance materials:

- [SafeWork's Managing the risk of plant in the workplace code of practice](#)
- [SafeWork's Farm vehicle pre-purchase checklist](#)
- [WorkSafe Victoria's Belt and survive fact sheet](#)
- [WorkSafe Queensland's Serious about farm safety](#)