

SAFETY ALERT

Interim notice – Run off road crashes and rollovers

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING TEAM – WAKA KOTAHI

20 DECEMBER 2022

VERSION 1. REFER UPCOMING WAKA KOTAHI 'HEALTH & SAFETY SNAPSHOT' IN JAN/FEB 2023 FOR UPDATED VERSIONS.

Why has this advisory been created?

In the lead up to Christmas, there's been a concerning trend of vehicle incidents while at work, including run-off road crashes and rollovers. These recent incidents highlight the importance of managing one of our sector's critical risks – **driving for work**.



Why are these types of incidents occurring?

While the causal factors of many of the recent events are yet to be determined – some initial contributors may have included:

- Unclear traffic and route planning.
- Failing to identify areas within the worksite, or along the determined travel route, which pose an increased risk to vehicle operations.
- Failing to plan for, assess, and adjust to changing road surfaces and/or weather conditions.
- Unsuitable vehicles for the road layout and conditions.
- Driving and human factors – passing other vehicles or obstacles at speed, too close to hazardous edges/drops, fatigue and distraction.

Recommended actions:

- **Ensure vehicles and mobile plant are up to date** - with maintenance, operational checks and roadworthiness.
- **Regularly assess traffic management and vehicle movement plans** - for condition, volume, distances, environmental, and other risk factors.
- **Engage with your workers and seek their feedback** - when reviewing and determining how best to manage these risks.
- **Have a plan for managing changes** – making sure the work is still able to be done safely
- **Ensure all drivers are fully competent** - to operate their respective vehicle/s within the environments present.
- **Set (and monitor) clear expectations** - regarding vehicle safety.
- **Review hazard and incident reporting data** - for relevant issues and trends.

Related guidance:

<https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/vehicles-and-mobile-plant/>
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/choosing-the-right-vehicle/choosing-and-operating-a-heavy-vehicle/>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/management/risk.htm>

This safety Alert is intended to share critical safety information and should not be interpreted to provide incident causation or full risk management guidance. Please share the message and direct any questions or comments to: NotifyHS@nzta.govt.nz