

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 54

Date: December 2022	Focus Group: ATV Users
Topic: Inspections and Track Assessments	Issued by: Craig Fisher

Background and Incident: A ‘hired in’ ATV has failed to safely negotiate a track after overnight rain and slid 15m backwards. Some of the passengers have ‘bailed’ out (possibly to reduce weight). Having then been able to safely turn the ATV around, the operator has abandoned further travel plans.


Injury Details: No injuries or damage sustained but the outcome could have been worse.

Risk Awareness: ATV use exposes operators to a (regulated) 'particular risk' namely – a falling or rolling object. Rainfall will generally reduce traction on most farm tracks increasing the risk of a loss of traction, slipping off a track and/or rollover. Unfamiliar equipment and a lack of planning increase the risk and pressure on operators.

Safe Behaviours: The [Safe Op – All Terrain Vehicles](#) (ATV) has guidance to ensure the safe use of this valuable but risky tool. Some key requirements include:

- [Inspection](#) of the ATV before use, including confirming its tyres have a suitable tread pattern and depth – doing so, particularly if the vehicle is new to the site or hired in.
- [Daily Route Planning](#) – use the Safe Tracks App alongside decision support tools e.g. [UnMetalled Access Routes Flowchart](#) – put your hand up if you need help or training.

NOTE: WorkSafe recently contemplated issuing an *Improvement Notice* upon one of our operations, where a 4WD (used as an ATV) slid and rolled. The notice was narrowly avoided because we were able to show, for the most part, the use of the Safe Op.

<p>For Site Manager:</p> <p>Print and complete the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with employees/operators: <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Place on site notice board or in file: <input type="checkbox"/> <p>Site Manager: _____ Date: / / (initials)</p>	
--	--