

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 57

Date: May 2023	Focus Group: ATV and 4WD Operators
Topic: Grassy Tracks	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incidents: Two PF Olsen Staff were visiting a forest to carry out survival assessments. Rain was forecast and they wanted to get the job done before the rain affected the tracks and they became too slippery. This qualified team reviewed the route plan and completed an ATV inspection, also checking PPE. Travelling at around 8kph, along a heavily grassed track (close to 1m high in places), the front wheels started to slide. From there the ATV slipped sideways and tipped over.

Injury Details: No injuries or damage. The ATV was righted and the plan was adjusted.

Risk Awareness: Slope and rain are recognised factors impacting ATV and 4WD safety on un-metalled access routes. Long (rank) grass can also lead to vehicle sliding and rollovers even in relatively dry conditions and where the slope is not a factor.

Safe Behaviours: Qualified Operators following the [Safe Op – All Terrain Vehicles](#) and using the [risk assessment flowchart](#) will remain safe in most situations, however, this guidance may not fit all situations so vigilance is needed. What can we learn?

- Always report incidents, they may be embarrassing, but others can learn from them
- Dry long grass, and there will be plenty of it this establishment season (due to summer being more like spring) can be very slippery, even on moderate slopes
- Where surface conditions are uncertain i.e., from a visual inspection, walk the tracks
- Install a rain gauge – rain may have fallen overnight, saturating grass and tracks.

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)


