

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 75

Date: June 2024	Focus Group: Establishment Workforce
Topic: Slips, Trips, and Falls; LUV Safety	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incidents: A tree planter encountered a bank with an old skidder track below, resulting in a 1.4-meter drop-off. With almost a full planting bag, he jumped down, landed poorly in soft dirt, and twisted his ankle. In another incident, a tree planter slipped (on a slip) and fell headfirst onto his planting spade.

Injury Details: The twisted ankle resulted in a sprain, a small bone chip, and lost time. The second incident resulted in a 2 cm long gash from hitting his head on the spade.

Risk Awareness: Steeper blocks of land are becoming more common in the establishment mix, increasing the risk for planters and vehicles. Wet and muddy conditions heighten the risk of slips, trips, and falls, as well as loss of traction when operating LUVs, potentially leading to multiple serious injuries or even fatalities.

Safe Behaviours: To minimise risk, those working in establishment must:

- Cautiously assess the stability and safety of the ground before moving onto it.
- Consider the extra weight you are carrying. Don't jump from heights.
- Use footwear with good traction to prevent slips and falls. Ensure a firm footing.
- Ensure planting tools are in good condition and properly handled to avoid injuries. Plan what you will do with them in the event of a slip, trip, or fall.
- Be aware of wet and muddy conditions and how these increase slipperiness. Adjust operations accordingly, such as reducing the weight carried/transported.
- Pick your track wisely – intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them!

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)

