

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 90

Date: July 2025	Focus Group: Drivers/Operators
Topic: Staying on Roads – Avoiding Hazards	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background: Recent incidents have highlighted the need for log truck drivers to take extra care when navigating corners, gate exits, and tight forest roads — especially in wet, dark, or unfamiliar conditions. In one case, a loaded truck clipped a forest gate post while exiting, damaging the gate. In another, a trailer dropped off the road edge due to poor line choice around a corner. Both events involved experienced drivers.

Injury and Damage Details: Two avoidable incidents — a bent gate and a trailer recovery — show the risks and consequences when trucks leave the formed road.

Risk Awareness: Slippery roads and low visibility increase the risk of tracking errors. Cutting corners or misjudging road edges can lead to trailers slipping into water tables, striking infrastructure, or worse. These risks are higher when driving unfamiliar trucks or on storm-affected roads. Notably, pushing trucks with machinery is not permitted, as this breaches [Section 8.1.3](#) of the 2012 Approved Code of Practice for Forestry.

Safe Behaviours (applicable to all drivers): To reduce risk and prevent damage:

- Slow down in poor light, fog, or after rain — take wider lines when passing gateways.
- Stay fully on the carriageway — keep trailers away from soft edges and culverts.
- Use judgement and don't rely on experience alone — complacency can creep in.
- Raise concerns early if the road is too tight, poorly drained, or visibility is reduced.
- Do not push trucks — ensure road maintenance allows for “unassisted passage”; make the decision to stop trucking if road conditions compromise transport safety.

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)

