

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 37

Date: July 2021	Focus Group: Heavy Transport
Topic: Reversing trucks	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: We have had three reports of trucks coming close to disaster during reversing manoeuvres on narrow forest roads. The common theme is a reversing truck plus unattended risks, e.g. – dark and foggy conditions, not using a Spotter in a ‘tight area’ and trying to navigate around an object with the sun obscuring the driver’s vision. We also have several other reports of trucks driving too close to the road edges and either getting stuck in the water-table or rolling over with loads.

Injury Details: No injuries – but huge potential for serious harm and property damage.

Risk Awareness: Forest roads, particularly those under construction may have steep shoulders, uneven surfaces and/or relatively soft edges. Trucks entering these areas may cause road subsidence leading to a partial or full rollover.

Safe Behaviours: Most Contractors have Safe Behavioural Observations, including in-cab assessments, embedded into safety management routines. Please continue with these and remember to give constructive and honest feedback to the drivers. Also, if you (as a professional driver) see evidence that a truck has left the carriage, please report this as an incident so it can be followed up. Where drivers are reversing, the road behind must be **clearly viewable** at all times – if obscured using a ‘Spotter’ (with RT communications) is best practice. Use reflective permalte stakes in prone areas and insist that objects – machinery, logs, stems etc. are kept out of the construction area.

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)

