

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 40

Date: September 2021	Focus Group: Helicopter Use – Establishment
Topic: Planting Pods on Steep Terrain	Issued by: Craig Fisher

Background and Incident: Three empty planting pods, located on a steep exposed hillside, were blown over and rolled downhill during a large storm event. Only two were repairable. The pods had been flown into position with a helicopter.

Injury Details: No injuries – this incident occurred when no one was on site.

Risk Awareness: Large objects in exposed locations can be de-stabilised by wind putting people and property at risk. Working under '[raised and falling objects](#)' are 'particular risks' and need specific management. If *elimination is not possible, minimise with engineering controls* (strops and anchors) or complete *substitution*.

Safe Behaviours: PCBUs must consult, coordinate, and cooperate on-site to determine appropriate locations for seedling pod placement. Select the most secure location, a natural hollow or saddle offering some protection from sun and prevailing winds – rather than the most convenient place for planter access. Completing a full and thorough reconnaissance, helicopter pilots must use their experience and vantage point to make the final decision. Complete an on-ground 'placement inspection', to confirm suitability and decide if further security is required e.g. with strops and anchors. Never work below an unsecured pod or one that is less than half full (ensuring a rollover ballast). Regularly inspect pod security – make any necessary adjustment to prevent damage or harm. Consider substituting pods for fertiliser fadges (large sacks) which are less likely to cause workers harm if blown around.

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)

