

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 62

Date: July 2023	Focus Group: ATV Operators
Topic: Following the Plan	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: While transporting seedlings an ATV (side by side LUV) operator has entered an area not planned for planting that day and used a track which was not an approved track. The operator drove up the track, dropped the trees off then started back down the track. The LUV slid on a steep, adverse cambered section of the track and over the side. It struck a mature manuka bush and came to a stop on its side.

Injury Details: Surface abrasion on the operator’s back and extensive ATV damage.

Risk Awareness: The particular risk is a loss of control leading to a rollover where the ATV (and its load) could fall onto and crush (or otherwise harm) the operator and/or passengers. Using prohibited tracks will definitely increase the risk of a poor outcome.

Safe Behaviours:

- Follow the plan.
- Always discuss plan changes (upset conditions) and obtain necessary approvals.
- It’s human to seek an ‘easier way’ and to justify our actions because the ‘perceived rewards outweigh the perceived risks’. However, we should never forget that our boss, forest manager and client don’t want us to do anything that will put ourselves or others at risk of harm or loss – please take 5 and think before you leap!
- Nobody wants to squash innovation or efficiency, however, ATV operation is a high risk task with non-negotiable controls – including the ‘track assessment’ procedure.

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)

