

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 78

Date: September 2024	Focus Group: Vehicle Drivers
Topic: Diving – Risk Prevention	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incidents: In the past month, two vehicle collisions involving forestry crews occurred on one-lane bridges. In both cases, the crews had the right of way but were struck by oncoming vehicles. The first incident involved a crew towing an ATV, while the second involved a ute towing a trailer. Despite efforts to brake, the collisions occurred due to the speed of the approaching vehicles.

Injury Details: Although no injuries were reported, the potential for serious harm in both incidents was significant, alongside property damage and operational delays.

Risk Awareness: Narrow roads and one-lane bridges, particularly after blind corners or in low-visibility conditions (e.g., rain, low light), pose substantial risks. Fast-approaching vehicles may fail to stop in time, causing accidents. Even when you have the right of way, factors such as other drivers’ speed, poor visibility, and adverse weather conditions increase the likelihood of a collision.

Safe Behaviours: to minimise risks on narrow roads and one-lane bridges:

- Slow down well before approaching a bridge, especially after blind corners.
- Anticipate that other drivers may not stop, even if you have the right of way.
- Increase stopping distance in wet or low-visibility conditions.
- Ensure vehicles and trailers are maintained and securely loaded for sudden stops.
- Encourage passengers to stay vigilant and communicate risks they see ahead.
- Drive cautiously, even when you are in the right.

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)

