

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 94

Date: October 2025	Focus Group: PCBUs and Drivers
Topic: Truck Slide – Near Catastrophe	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background: On 7 October, a loaded log truck slid on a steep section of road after overnight and early-morning rain. The trailer slid and pushed the rear truck wheels over the edge of the road formation, coming to rest in the soft fill on the road edge — avoiding what could have been a serious down-hill rollover. The driver exited safely. The truck and trailer were unloaded, stabilised, and recovered. Operations were paused, the area checked, and cartage safely resumed the following day.

Injury and Damage: The trailer sustained minor wiring and tyre damage.

Risk Awareness: Loss of traction on steep, wet roads can quickly lead to rollovers, vehicle loss, or serious harm to the driver — particularly when trailers swing or push the truck sideways. Recovery work also exposes people to further risks such as vehicle movement, slips, or being struck by machinery. Even though the road was built to specification, heavy rain reduced traction and edge stability — catching out a driver with 20 years’ experience and a perfect safety record. This shows that roads built near design limits need active monitoring and control.

Safe Behaviours (for all PCBUs and drivers):

- **Peer review of roads** that approach the [NZFOA Forest Road Engineering Manual](#) design limits is a valuable safety check before and during cartage operations.
- **Suspend cartage** when rain or road conditions increase risk, and resume only after inspection and PCBU approval.

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)

