

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



DRIVING IS A CRITICAL RISK

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Background

Driving is the most common high-risk work activity performed every day across the forest industry. Vehicle collisions occur due to driver fatigue, distractions, poor driving technique and failure to adapt to changed conditions such as road surfaces and obscured vision from dust, smoke, sunlight, fog, heavy rain and darkness.

Vehicle collision remains the leading cause of death to Australian workers in Australia. Whether you're a new driver or have been driving for decades, it's important to think about safe driving.

Reduce your risk of collision:

- Always wear your seat belt. Wearing a seat belt can increase your chance of survival by 50% in a head on collision.
- Obey road rules and signage including speed limit and cautionary signage. Maintain a safe driving distance from the vehicle in front of you, especially when driving in poor weather conditions.
- Certain road and weather conditions increase the risk of an accident and extra care is required, adjust your driving behaviour, drive to the conditions and slow down.
- Take regular breaks on long trips and keep hydrated. If you are feeling fatigued, stop in a safe location and rest.
- Overtake only when you have a clear view of approaching traffic with sufficient space and never exceed the speed limit.
- Plan your journey and stick to planned traffic routes. Be aware of road hazards such as large native and domesticated animals at dawn and dusk.
- Drive defensively. If another driver has poor or aggressive driving behaviours, stay clear or if you must pull off the road.

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- Accelerate and brake slowly and reduce your speed when approaching intersections, curves and hills.
- Turn on your lights so other vehicles can see you.
- Keep your mind on the task and don't let your mobile phone or radio distract you.
- Complete daily pre-start checks ensuring windscreen wipers, tyres, brakes, headlights, taillights, and turn signals all work properly. Report issues via a hazard report.