

SAFETY ALERT



TITLE: Driving to Road Conditions

Number: 48

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Background

An FPC contractor working in a remote sandalwood operation has been involved in a vehicle rollover enroute to its operations on a sand/clay track.

The two occupants sustained minor injuries, and the vehicle is a write off.

The vehicle drove across an unidentified section of clay ground which, when combined with moisture and an early morning frost, has caused the vehicle to lose traction and steering ability, hitting the embankment and the vehicle rollover resulting.

The contractor had appropriate travel plans and communications, so the employees were located within a reasonable period.

Key points

Always drive to the road conditions - conditions can change, and new hazards can be created.

Reduce vehicle speed when weather conditions increase the risk.

Identify and communicate hazards associated with roads and tracks.

Ensure travel plans for remote operations are satisfactory, test plans and devices where practical.

Carry appropriate equipment for remote travel to communicate location, sat phones, Epirbs, UHF, GPS trackers.