

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



Truck rollover

Number: 51

Issued: 16/11/2021

Background

On the 4th November, around 7.50am, loaded FPC contractor's truck had a vehicle rollover (cab and front trailer) on an in forest road, approaching a sharp left hand corner descending a hill.

The driver suffered non-life threatening injuries, but there was potential for significant harm.

Key Points

- Driver inexperience was a contributing factor – the driver had undergone an intensive internal training program but was relatively new to the industry and to driving multi-combination heavy vehicles.
- It would appear the driver has downshifted on approach to the corner to reduce speed, has missed the gear change, and has free wheeled into the corner. Speed increased from 40km/hr to 51km/hr in under 4 seconds, and there were no signs of brakes being engaged to reduce speed.
- In the days leading up to the incident, the drivers start times fluctuated between 3am to 6am starts, so fatigue cannot be factored out.
- The truck did not have a “Guardian” driver monitoring unit, which may have assisted in the overall outcome, and provided a greater understanding of the events which took place.

Improved vehicle technologies, driver training and fatigue management should be at the forefront of all contractors and drivers, to ensure everyone returns home safely at the end of each working day.