

NZ Safety Alert

27 March 2020

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe

ADT rollovers continue

An ADT was travelling empty down a reasonably steep haul road when the truck started to accelerate. The operator applied the exhaust retarder and then the brakes, but neither actions slowed the ADT down.

The operator tried to run the ADT into a bund however lost control of the truck, and it rolled onto its right-hand side. The operator was not injured.

An investigation identified that the operator had been incorrectly operating the ADT in automatic transmission mode, instead of manual, and the truck automatically changed up a gear to prevent the engine from over revving. This caused the engine RPM to drop, reducing the engine's braking efficiency and preventing the exhaust braking system from working.

The increase in speed also deactivated 6WD, thus reducing traction.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sep 2019 shows that 30% of all incidents (700 incidents) involve vehicles, with loss of control of a vehicle being the second most common cause (275 incidents)

You need to ensure that:

1. All workers are trained and competent to operate machinery prior to use with follow up assessments to ensure knowledge is gained and understood.
2. Equipment is operated in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) requirements. This may include using manual gear transmission when operating machinery down hills or steep grades.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify unsafe behaviour and other activities that could put workers at risk of harm.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.