

NZ Safety Alert

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

May 2019

Water cart roll over

The operator of an articulated water cart reversed down a ramp with the spray bars turned on. The rear right tyre rode up a rock face approximately 600mm high and the truck body, with half a tank of water, tipped onto its right-hand side.

The operator tried to drive forward while the body was tipping, which caused the cab of the truck to tip to the opposite side. The operator was wearing a seatbelt and was not injured.

The contributing factors causing this incident were:

- reversing with water sprays on, impairing vision
- water cart was not required in this area
- operator engaged drive while tipping.



WorkSafe reviewed the site's incident investigation and concluded that "we are satisfied that you have taken the incident seriously and have made improvements to prevent a further recurrence."

You need to ensure that:

1. Areas where vehicles are not to go are sufficiently bunded to exclude access.
2. Operators of water carts do not reverse while water sprays are operating.
3. Seatbelts are worn at all times in mobile equipment.
4. You report all significant injuries and near misses to WorkSafe and conduct a thorough investigation to avoid recurrence.
5. Operators are adequately trained and competent to operate mobile equipment in all circumstance and conditions.

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