

# Safety Alert

## Truck Rollover

4th March 2020

### What happened

A loaded logging truck (5 axle) was descending down a gentle hill in to a left hand corner. As the truck entered the corner, the front wheels slid on the dry powdery surface. The weight of the trailer pushed the truck sideways. The truck jack-knifed and was pushed on to its side.



### Learnings

- After a prolonged period of drought, the roads had become very dusty with a powder layer remaining on the road as the fines settled after every vehicle passing. This contributed to the loss of traction that the driver experienced.
- The trucking company's investigation found that the driver was driving faster than other drivers were driving on this section of road in the same conditions. Also noted was that the slower trucks were non-50 max units.
- The findings from the trucking company's investigation was that the driver had misjudged the road conditions; and speed coupled with the road conditions contributed to the accident.

### Recommendations

- During prolonged periods of dry weather, road users need to be aware that a layer of powder on the road can lead to a loss of traction, especially when descending and changing direction.
- Reduce speed and consider the weight of your vehicle in these conditions.
- Persons responsible for providing the road infrastructure should inspect high use roads regularly during the dry season. Any road sections that pose a significant risk to road users should be corrected and ongoing preventative maintenance should be performed.
- Logging truck drivers should adjust their driving behavior to a change in conditions and road surface.
- Logging truck drivers should use central tire inflation (CTI) where appropriate.

