

- Safety Alert
 Best Practice Advice
 Environmental Alert
 Health Alert
 Innovation Advice
 Environmental Focus

Notification Number

CTY 001

Date : 16th December 2021

Focus Group: All Forest Users

Region: Canterbury

Topic: Driving on Non-Harvest Forestry Roads

Background

- A beekeeper driving a 4WD became distracted and drove into the road verge, over a bank, rolling 13m downhill.
- This was a low use non-harvest road with grassy vegetation either side of well defined wheel tracks. Conditions were wet and the road surface was slippery. This particular section was relatively straight and flat.
- The driver became distracted/was daydreaming, and the vehicle veered off the formed wheel tracks into the long wet grass on the verge. The driver then heavily braked, causing the ABS brakes to engage and lock up. The vehicle skidded 10-15m before coming to a stop. However, upon stopping, one wheel became perched over an old culvert outlet where the road narrows, causing the vehicle to slowly tip before rolling approx. 13m down a steep bank.
- The vehicle was traveling at approx. 20-30km/hr.
- The driver was wearing a seatbelt and the vehicle was suitable for the task with 4WD engaged.
- The driver suffered minor cuts and bruises. The vehicle was written off.

Risk

- In this case only minor injuries resulted, but there was potential for a severe outcome.
- There are a high number of non-harvest roads within the estate and these are often less well maintained. It is not uncommon for these roads to be narrower due to vegetation growth, have an accumulation of pine needles, and/or have less metal on the road surface —all contributing towards a particularly slippery surface when wet.
- Forest users, such as beekeepers, tend to operate in areas away from forestry operations on these types of roads.

Learnings

- Distracted drivers are more likely to make mistakes.
- Road conditions become more hazardous in wet or changing conditions. Where possible, avoid using less-maintained roads in wet or unfavorable conditions.
- Ensure hive locations are selected and agreed upon with road conditions in mind. Roads required for use by beekeepers or other forest users should then be included in the non-harvest road maintenance programs.
- It is very important forest users raise any concerns with road conditions.
- Drivers should drive in high 4WD, be competent/trained in 4WD, and the vehicles need to be fit for purpose (e.g. good tyres etc).

Workplace Notification

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Images



Discussion Notes :

Discussed with employees

Distributed

Site Manager : _____

Date : _____