# Driver Fatigue, Microsleep

## WHAT HAPPENED?

While two Service Provider workers were driving from the work site to the depot, the driver who had been driving, for just under an hour, suffered a microsleep causing the vehicle to veer over the centre line.

The passenger took control of the steering wheel to pull the vehicle back on course. The passenger then instructed the driver to pull over to restore safety and take control of the driving.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- Re-educated team on vehicle safety controls and features e.g., lane assist.
- Conducted training with all staff on fatigue training focusing on identifying signs of fatigue, risks of driving when drowsy, best practices for staying alert while driving including promotion of good nutrition, hydration and exercise as they impact alertness and energy levels.
- Conducted refresher training on their Vehicle Policy.

#### **ROOT CAUSE**

- The lane assist feature of the vehicle was not in use while driving.
- The signs of fatigue were not identified and addressed while driving.

## **LEARNINGS**

- Fatigue can affect anyone.
- Passengers also have a duty to assess fitness to drive.
- Periodically inspect vehicles to ensure safety controls and features are functional and in good working condition.

Name	Ilze Bekker
Position	Project Manager
Mobile	021-838-251
Email	Ilze.bekker@transpower.co.nz
Maximo Ref	177296
Incident Date	05/02/2025