

SAFETY ALERT 25/01

Ladder lost from roof rack

High potential incident

10 April 2025

MEMO TO ALL EMPLOYEES

Incident/Issue:

While driving along the Kapiti Expressway in high wind conditions (Monday's weather event), the ladder on the roof rack of a ute came out of it's rack onto the road and bounced over the barrier off into bushes.

This was a high potential incident and a risk to other road users.



Key findings:

- The ladder is secured by a single carabiner like clip at the rear of the ladder rack. When this is clipped in, the spring/lock should close, and then the cord is tightened to secure it.
- In this case, it appears the clip did not close properly, or was not attached fully, and a significant wind gust has dislodged it, causing the ladder to slide out.



Lessons learned:

Load security is a part of the STCKY (Critical Risk) relating to driving and vehicle operation, and has a high potential consequence if things go wrong. Load security is the responsibility of the vehicle driver / operator. It is essential that:

- Roof racks are checked and secure (check and tighten securing nuts as required, this was recently identified as an issue).
- All loads are tied down/clipped in and double checked before driving off.
- Ladder security is checked after every use, again, before driving off.
- Loose items in truck trays must be secured.

Actions:

- Reviewing whether these clips are a sufficient control.
- Refresher training for tying down loads e.g., poles, transformers, has been recommended during the STCKY review.

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