



Light Utility Vehicle Roll Over on Steep Terrain (FA088)



Moving Vehicles

| Incident | Description | |
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| Event Date: 28/04/2025 | Time: 11:05AM | Location: Tunakawa Road, Karapiro |
| Investigation Status: | On-going | NP Reference / External Reference: OCC15357 / INV17778 / Maximo #178244 |

What happened?

A team of three line mechanics was tasked with delivering hardware to three pole sites on a farm property in preparation for upcoming pole replacements.

While ascending a steep hill to the first site in a Light Utility Vehicle (LUV), the load shifted to the rear of the vehicle. This shift caused the front wheels to lift off the ground, leading the LUV to roll backward multiple times end over end before coming to a stop at the bottom of the hill.



What could have happened?

This incident could have been significantly worse if the passengers had not worn seat belts. The forces at play in a rollover are immense. Passengers can experience head injuries, whiplash, and fractures due to the sudden impact of the vehicle rolling over. The body isn't designed to handle such motions and forces, making these injuries more likely.

Actions Required / Messages:

Accessing Off-Road Work Sites: Before starting any work, check and confirm all access routes to the work site/s using the latest access track maps available.

Access Assessment: Check every slope before you go up or down it. How steep is it? How rough is the terrain? How much ground cover does it have? Slopes can cause loads to slide, making LUVs unstable.

Seat Belts: LUVs can suddenly tip or roll over in a challenging environment such as an area with steep slopes or bumpy ground. If this happens, the Roll-Over Protection System (ROPS) will only protect you if you are restrained by a seat belt. The force of an accident can be so strong that it's almost impossible to keep yourself inside the vehicle unless you are wearing a seat belt. Your arms, legs, hands, feet or head could be crushed between the ROPS and the ground if you are not restrained.



FIRST ALERT

Health & Safety

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Nets, Doors, and Guarding: Nets and doors can stop your limbs from being flung outside the ROPS if the LUV rolls over. **Never** remove them – they could help to save your life.

Safety Helmets: LUV passengers must wear an approved helmet that meets New Zealand Standard NZS 8600:202.

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| Supporting References: | <i>WorkSafe Vehicles on Farms</i> https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/farm-vehicles/using-your-side-by-side-safely/ <i>Northpower Critical Risk Control: Use Seatbelt (on-road and off-road)</i> https://northpower.sharepoint.com/sites/pub-health-safety/SitePages/Critical-Risk-Controls--Moving-Vehicles.aspx |
| For more information: | Therese Carroll, HSQE Manager - Transmission & Central - 021387139 |

