

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Serious Incident – ATV Incident

In June 2020, a contract planting supervisor was operating an ATV loaded with boxes of seedlings (3 on front, 3 on back). The supervisor made the decision to drive across the open harvested area, as the block road was inaccessible.

While travelling through the cut block, the front tire of the ATV tipped on its side, pinning the operator between the ATV and a stump.

The worker was treated by the First aid attendant and sent to the hospital where an x-ray identified 3 fractured vertebrae.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Considerations when using ATV's

1. Whenever operating vehicles, mobile equipment or ATV's full attention ***must*** be on the route and obstacles.
2. If ATV's are to be used to carry items, load in a balanced way, and ensure 4 points of contact of the load straps to reduce load shift. A maximum load limit should be set.
3. Avoid traveling on side slopes.
4. When operating ATV's in areas with large amounts of debris and obstacles, ensure you have a clear path before proceeding.
5. Keep all handheld radios dry and carry a whistle to call for help
6. Consider walking and marking a quad route in difficult terrain prior to ATV use.

Most Important Take Away

Consider 'walking the route' and marking a safe path when operating an ATV in difficult terrain.

