



SAFETY ALERT

Quad Bike Rollovers Involving Trailers

WHAT HAPPENED?

Two separate rollover incidents occurred when towing a trailer behind a quad bike. Thankfully, both riders survived as the quad bikes had been fitted with Lifeguard rollover protection.

- **Incident one:** A shepherd was mustering in extremely high winds on a quad with a trailer. On his way to the wool shed, he found power lines had been blown down over the road. The rider took another route to the sheds through side paddocks. While ascending to the top of a gully an exceptional gust of wind picked up the trailer and threw it to the left of the quad, pulling the quad over. The rider was thrown to the ground and the quad rolled over him.
- **Incident two:** A farmer was mustering on his quad in low visibility and wet conditions. He was towing a trailer with two dogs. He went down the wrong spur and chose to back track along a ridge he was unfamiliar with. His back right wheel skidded and slid down a hollow, causing the bike to roll over the rider and come to rest on its side.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

Low visibility, wet conditions, and extreme weather were contributing factors in both scenarios.

In both incidents farmers were taking alternative routes.

In incident two, the additional weight of the two dogs in the trailer contributed to the loss of control.



HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

Discuss these incidents with your staff and teams. Trailers were involved in both incidents.

- When is it appropriate to drop trailers?
- What guidelines do you have on farm for the use of trailers and quads?
- What training do you and your team need to feel confident driving a quad with a trailer attached?
- What parts of the farm would it not be safe to have a trailer on the quad?

Other discussion points:

- Are the conditions right for the job? Can the job wait until later in the day or tomorrow? Should you use a different vehicle that day?
- What can you do to make trails more visible on your farm? (E.g. Route markers/poles along ridges/safe areas or sticking to fence lines)
- What can you do if you can't see the route in front of you, or aren't familiar with it? Is it safer to walk?
- Crush Protection Devices (CPDs) can reduce the risk of serious harm or fatality, but still have their limits. It is up to the driver to decide if the conditions are safe to be operating in.

SAFE FARMING STARTS HERE:

farmwithoutuharm.org.nz/safety-alerts

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