

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 70

Date: March 2024	Focus Group: All ATV Operators
Topic: Track Assessments	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: While driving along a fence line in an LUV, the passenger was using a handheld thermal imager to search for pest animals and detect hazards. The operator was following tracks made by another vehicle, but not the approved route. The LUV struck a hidden rock, causing the passenger to hit the side pillar.

Injury Details: The passenger’s helmet hitting the side pillar prevented serious injury. The LUV suffered a damaged rim and flat tyre.

Risk Awareness: Driving off approved tracks, as marked in the MapApp, increases the risk of hitting hidden obstacles like rocks, especially in long grass. Despite precautions, such as using a head torch and thermal imaging, the hazard was missed due to the passenger focusing on the side view with the thermal device. This shows how controls can easily lose effectiveness, underscoring the need for limited reliance on them.

Safe Behaviours: Before and during ATV Operation, it is important that:

- Prior to ATV operation, the PCBUs must conduct [pre-assessments of access routes](#) and designate approved tracks, documenting decisions, for example, in the MapApp.
- Operators must always stick to approved tracks and maintain vigilance for any changes in surroundings, including potential hazards beyond immediate sight.
- Ensure all occupants wear PPE, including helmets, to minimise injury risks.
- Be mindful of conditions and speed, certainly no faster than 20 kph with passengers.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

