



INCIDENT REFERENCE: INC-02497

DATE ISSUE: 03/07/2024

SAFETY ALERT#: 020

## SUNSTRIKE

DATE: 05/06/2024

TIME: 3.45pm

SITE/BU: Harvesting

LOCATION: Public rd leaving forest

PLANT TYPE: light vehicle

## DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

While driving home from work, just out of Timberlands Forest, a work ute was involved in a vehicle vs vehicle accident. As they came into a corner, they encountered bad sunstrike and accidentally drifted toward the middle of the road. At the same time another Ute came around the corner and the 2 vehicles hit. Both drivers were ok with no injuries but both vehicles were damaged and tow trucks had to be called.



## CAUSE OF INCIDENT

The root causes were identified as Sunstrike and not driving to the conditions at the time. Sunstrike can occur at any time during the day, but has the highest potential during sunrise or sunset, when the sun's rays hit your windscreen at a low angle. This can make it difficult, or even impossible, to see. This is a very dangerous condition to drive in.

## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Always drive to the conditions.
- Be able to stop in half the visible distance.
- Be prepared for possible sunstrike when driving at sunrise or sunset, especially when turning or towards the sun.
- Be vigilant, sunstrike is more likely to occur in winter because the sun is lower in the sky.
- Keep your windscreen clean, inside, and out. Grime and dust on the windscreen can make the effects of sunstrike worse.
- Wear sunglasses when driving with the sun in your eyes.
- Use your car's sunvisor to block the sun.
- If you experience sunstrike, it may be best to pull over and wait for a few minutes until your eyes adjust or visibility improves.

**This Safety Alert must be posted on all notice boards and used by supervisors at Toolbox Meetings**

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WORK SITES**