



Fatality Alert: Preliminary Information

Post this alert in containers & discuss at safety/tailgate meetings.

Date: 2 July 2025

WorkSafe issued notification of a forestry sector fatality on Friday, 28 March 2025. The initial report indicated that the incident involved a bulldozer in a harvesting operation, that rolled into a creek, resulting in the operator's death at the scene. This incident occurred in the Northland region.

WorkSafe have attended the scene and opened an investigation into the incident.

Our thoughts go out to the whanau, crew and others involved in this tragic event.

This incident is still under investigation and details are still to be determined, so contributing factors to the incident are not yet available.

Consider these points when operating mobile plant in harvesting operations:

The Approved Code of Practice provides the following guidance:

6.1.3

Seatbelts shall be worn at all times on all mobile plant.

6.1.7

Mobile plant shall be equipped with a braking mechanism capable of holding itself and its load on any slope on which it is operated.

6.2.2

Where the stability of mobile plant is compromised by slope, weather or ground conditions then a specific hazard management plan shall be developed, implemented, and monitored.

6.5.1

Mobile plant shall be maintained in a safe operating condition in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

