

# Safety and health alert

## 08/97 Driver killed in tractor rollover

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### Incident

A self employed fencing contractor was fatally injured in April 1997 whilst constructing a fence down a dam wall in the south west.

He was driving a Massey Ferguson tractor across the slope of the dam wall to drill a post hole when the tractor rolled sideways, pinning him beneath the rear wheel.

### Factors

The tractor was being driven across the steep embankment.

The tractor was not fitted with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) nor any operator restraining devices.

### Recommendations

1. The danger of a tractor overturning is greatly increased on hills and sloping ground. The publication "Safe Use of Farm Tractors" is available from WorkSafe Western Australia and on the internet. It details safe working methods on sloping ground.
2. All tractors manufactured, imported or originally purchased after 1 January 1981 within the weight range of 800-15,000 kg used at a workplace must be fitted with a ROPS before 1 September 1997. (For requirements involving tractors being used on a minesite, refer to Department of Minerals and Energy S.I.R. No. 74).
3. The owners and suppliers of all other tractors must ensure that if there is any risk:
4. the tractor could overturn;
5. an object could come into contact with the operator; or
6. the operator could be ejected from the seat,

those risks must be limited by the provision of an appropriate combination of operator protective devices.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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