

# Safety and health alert

## 24/00 Equipment fitted to work vehicles

---

### Incident

An employee received back injuries (severe jarring of the spine) as a result of a motor vehicle accident whilst travelling to a job in a remote area of the North-West of the State. The vehicle, a utility, left the road, continued over a culvert/floodway and landed heavily causing the injuries to the employee and extensive damage to the vehicle.

### Factors

A two-way radio had been installed on the floor of the vehicle beneath the base of the driver's seat virtually eliminating the space available between the seat base and the floor of the vehicle. At least some of this space was intended to facilitate deflection of the driver's seat base with varying loads (drivers) and road conditions.

### Recommendations

Ensure that equipment retro-fitted to work vehicles such as radios, fire extinguishers, tool boxes etc., do not affect the safety of the driver (as in this case), operation of the vehicle, or become missiles in the event of a collision (or during heavy braking).

### 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).

A414489

Date: June 2000

