

Safety and health alert

07/05 Gardener fatally injured in roll-over

Incident

A self-employed landscape gardener was driving a utility vehicle down a steep bitumen roadway. He made a right hand turn into a driveway and the utility rolled over, pinning him underneath and causing fatal injuries. The utility he was driving was a 1979 John Deere two-seater five- wheel AMT 622 - All Material Transporter. These utilities do not come fitted with ROPS or seat belts. The gardener was working on a large private property at the time, and the roadway and driveway formed part of the property.

Factors to consider

- Steep bitumen slopes are very hazardous when using these utilities.
- Five-wheel configurations with one front wheel located in the centre provide less stability than six wheel configurations, especially while turning.
- Speed is a major contributing factor in rollovers.



AMT 622 - All Material Transporter

Recommendations

1. Reduce speed and exercise extreme caution on steep slopes. Always use brakes when going down slopes.
2. Drive very slowly when turning.
3. Ensure regular maintenance and immediate repair of faults or damage. Pay particular attention to tyres, brakes and steering.
4. Read and become familiar with the operators manual regarding safe use information.
5. Never allow children to operate utilities. These vehicles are not intended for recreational use.
6. Be aware and adhere to all safety decals on the utility and ensure that they are clearly legible.
7. Reduce load size in cargo box when operating on hilly or rough ground.

Further information

For further information on this summary please contact Inspector Harry Bayens of Manufacturing, Transport and Services Branch on 9327 8777 or access WorkSafe's web site at www.safetyline.wa.gov.au Date: March 2005

