

Roll-over (350m) – Watch those slopes!



A rubber tyre skidder (c. 1980 – Clark 666c) was travelling up a ridge track with a slope of 30 degrees. Through its journey, the Operator (who incidentally jumped clear) heard a loud bang and the skidder began to lose its forward momentum and role backwards. The Skidder overturned, before rolling 350 meters down-hill into the adjacent gully.

What can we learn from this incident?

- The Approved Code of Practice (p. 52) states rubber-tyred machines should not operate on slopes that exceed the maximum specified by the manufacturer ...as a guide ...slopes that exceed 30% (18 degrees).
- "...should such a machine be associated with a serious harm or fatal accident it is probable that DoL will investigate the accident event and scrutinise the design, manufacturing certification, safety performance specifications, operational and maintenance manuals and its applied operational use, against the duties of the various stakeholders..." DoL, Workplace Services, Wellington – 4 Sept. 2009