

# Machines on slopes

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- Machine operators must be fit to do the job
- Continue to assess risks as you work



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As forestry becomes more mechanised the risks change. Machines on slopes are now a major factor in forestry incidents.

## **Plan the work well – do this before you start**

- Walk the work area – use the harvest plan information and technology (eg, slope maps or LIDAR maps) to identify high-risk areas.
- Assess the slope for steepness, soil conditions and anything else that could cause a hazard – develop a plan to manage those risks.
- Make sure the machines being used are suitable for working on slopes – use them only within the manufacturer’s guidelines.

## **Machine operators must be fit to do the job**

- All operators must be trained to use the machine they are operating, and have the skills to do the job.
- They must also be fit for work – able to concentrate, with work planned so they have time to rest, eat and drink.
- Be aware of mental fatigue from needing to concentrate for a long time.

## **Continue to assess risks as you work**

- Keep assessing and updating information about the slope conditions. Has rain made the ground slippery or unstable? Could stumps, soft spots or holes make the machine unstable?
- Communicate any new risks to the crew – document the risks and controls.
- Always wear your seat belt – even if you’re doing a quick job.

**TREAT THE SLOPE WITH RESPECT – Stop work if you need to re-assess the terrain or if anything else means you can’t concentrate properly. Use your machine only within its limits on slopes (eg, don’t over-reach or try to pick too much up).**