

MACHINE INSTABILITY



An incident occurred where an earthmoving excavator tipped over while developing a skid.

In this incident the machine operator had picked up a stump and as the machine slewed to place the stump, the ground beneath slumped on one side and the machine lost stability and tipped over.

The operator was unharmed due to wearing a seat belt.

From the investigation findings, these things should be remembered when operating tracked machines in the forest:

- Wear your seat belt. Even on flat ground!
- Keep your centre of gravity low by keeping your machine boom and attachments low, especially when slewing.
- Pay attention when working close to the edge of any area where the ground could move underneath you.
- Ask yourself - is the ground compacted enough? Make this a priority before you start working there.

Stable ground, low centre of gravity = Stable machine.