

JNL LEARNING EVENT - #83

COLLISION BETWEEN UTE AND LOG TRUCK

CORRECT RADIO CHANNEL / SEAT BELT USE

Event Details

On Feb 8 2022, at approximately 1pm – a ute was driving through an active forest with a fellow worker who he had just picked up. Approximately 2km from the forest exit the ute collided head-on with an empty logging truck. Both vehicles hit the brakes, but with the slippery, muddy conditions and the momentum of the truck going downhill, both vehicles collided.

The logging truck had called his km marker but did not hear the ute call. The vehicles were traveling between 5-10 km/hour. The passenger of the ute was not wearing a seatbelt and sustained an injury (unfit for 3 days).



Why?

- The driver of the ute had not switched back to the correct channel.
- As a consequence, the logging truck driver was not aware that another vehicle was travelling in the opposite direction, so went wide around the corner.
- The passenger of the ute was not wearing a seatbelt, and because of this, hit his hand and head on the dash.
- Road conditions were wet and slippery.
- Where the collision happened, there is limited visibility (e.g.: blind corner).
- Narrow road conditions played a role (approx. three metres wide).

Significant Learnings

Always ensure you USE the RT and always wear your SEATBELT

What's required?

- ✓ Ensure staff and subcontractors drive to conditions and wear seatbelts – AT ALL TIMES
- ✓ Do not depend on the radio, drive as if a vehicle could be coming without calling.
- ✓ Ensure staff and contractors know and use the correct radio channels
- ✓ Report missing km markers or road signs
- ✓ Suggest improvements to road signage as needed