

HAZARD ALERT!

TRAILER ROLL OVER



Background:

A loaded log truck was making his way along a narrow public gravel road on which forestry trucks and vehicles call up their position over a common RT channel.

An unloaded log truck was coming towards him, both drivers communicated to each other to work out each other's position, thinking they were still some distance apart.

The driver of the loaded truck saw the other truck through some trees, as he came around a corner, so he quickly pulled to the left to make room and avoid the head-on. The loaded truck driver let the unloaded truck past and the unloaded truck driver said "cheers".

When the loaded truck started to move off, the driver was not aware of how close to the edge of the bank he was, as well as the severity of the drop. The outside trailer wheels slid off the edge of the road and the trailer rolled onto its side and down the bank.

Because the driver was still going slow at this stage and was quick at putting on the emergency brake, the truck was not pulled over the bank.

Learning from this incident:

- Use clear precise calls of your position and drive to the conditions so you can stop in half sight distance (be ready to meet something unexpectedly).
- Unloaded trucks should give way to loaded trucks (if you have a load on, you have right of way – be courteous, but don't try to be "the nice guy").
- If you have to stop and/or pull over, assess all surrounding risks and take the required steps before moving off. (In this case the driver should have reversed up to get a better angle for the corner before pulling forward).