

FACT SHEET

SIDE BY SIDES



OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

Operating side by sides can pose a number of risks to drivers and passengers. When a side by side overturns, there is the risk of being killed if thrown from or crushed by the vehicle. People can also be thrown around inside the cabin or hit by loose objects, and receive serious or even fatal injuries.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn how to safely use a side by side
- 2 How to apply to your farm/actions to take forward

BEST PRACTICE DETAIL

There are many ways farmers can keep themselves and their workers safe while using a side by side vehicle.

- All users of a side by side must be trained and inducted into its use, and records must be kept of the training
- When first purchasing a side by side, request a handover from the supplier
- All users must be given the opportunity to read and understand the instruction manual
- Regularly check the seat belts/retention strapping/doors and do not use if maintenance is required
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (helmet, long trousers, boots) when riding a side by side
- Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional and do not operate if they are not
- Check tyre condition and pressure regularly
- Locate and ensure you are familiar with all machine operations and controls
- Before starting the side by side, ensure all levers are in their neutral positions and the parking brake is engaged
- If the side by side is used on public roads, ensure all lights and warning devices are functioning and the vehicle is registered
- Be aware of and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for safe operation

- Do not carry more than the number of passengers that the vehicle has been designed for and ensure every occupant wears a seatbelt
- Do not exceed the rated load capacity
- Ensure the loads are suitable and secured, and keep the centre of gravity low, ensuring the load cannot shift when underway
- If towing, do not exceed rated tow capacity
- Never start or operate levers from anywhere other than the seat
- Do not dismount while the engine is running unless the side by side has completely stopped, the transmission is in the park position and the parking brake is fully engaged
- Observe speed limits and no-go areas

ACTIONS

There are actions you can take right now to ensure you are as safe as possible when next using a side by side vehicle.

- Ensure all users of a side by side on your farm are trained and you have adequate records kept handy
- Give all users the opportunity to read the instruction manual
- Check the seat belts/retention strapping/doors and do not use if maintenance is required
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (helmet, long trousers, boots) is available and used
- Check tyre condition and pressure regularly
- Ensure all lights and warning devices are functioning and the vehicle is registered

KEY CONTACT

For further information please contact:

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