



HAZARD ALERT

August 2009 - Two rock trucks collide on forest road



Background:

Two rock trucks were working in Geraldine Forest. Initially these trucks had been travelling in convoy, but due to a number of factors they became separated. The drivers were keeping in contact via the RT, but there was a misunderstanding in the communications and they both drove towards each other expecting the other truck to be waiting. The trucks met on a corner with poor visibility – one of the trucks managed to stop but the other slid under braking and they collided head-on. There were no major injuries, but significant damage to both trucks.

Learnings from this:

- **Always drive to the conditions – you MUST be able to stop in half the clear distance ahead of you. Drive with the expectation that a vehicle may be coming the other way at any time.**
- **RT calling procedures are useful for communicating with other vehicles and planning passing locations, but NEVER rely on the RT to assume the road ahead is clear. A message may have been misunderstood, not heard, or there may be vehicles on the road without RT's.**
- **When planned work procedures change, all people must be aware of what is happening and adjust their actions accordingly.**