



**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 74**

**DRIVER KILLED IN TRACTOR ROLLOVER**

**INCIDENT**

A self employed fencing contractor was fatally injured in April 1997 whilst constructing a fence down a dam wall in the south west.

He was driving a Massey Ferguson tractor across the slope of the dam wall to drill a post hole when the tractor rolled sideways pinning him beneath the rear wheel.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS**

The tractor was being driven across the steep embankment.

The tractor was not fitted with a Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) nor any operator restraining devices.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The danger of a tractor overturning is greatly increased on hills and sloping ground, the publication "Safe Use of Farm Tractors" is available from WorkSafe Western Australia. It is also on the Internet and details safe working methods on sloping ground.
- All tractors used on a minesite must be fitted with a ROPS before 8 December 1997.
- The owners and suppliers of all other tractors must ensure that if there is any risk that:
  - the tractor could overturn;
  - an object could come into contact with the operator; or
  - the operator could be ejected from the seat.

then those risks must be limited by the provision of an appropriate combination of operator protective devices.

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STATE MINING ENGINEER

27 May 1997

**SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES**