



Inexperienced skidder operator loses life



INCIDENT

A trainee skidder operator died from injuries received when the Clark Ranger 666B skidder he was operating rolled down a bank.

CIRCUMSTANCES

He was negotiating a right-hand bend, going downhill, when he drove into a slick of water that had puddled on the inside of the curve. After swerving to avoid the slick, the skidder hit the fence on the opposite side of the road. It then rolled backwards and overturned.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the Clark Ranger 666B, like most other skidders, steers poorly when coasting downhill on low engine revs and that these factors as well as the operator's inexperience had led to the fatality.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

Ensure that all machine operators are trained and not placed in sole charge of machinery until they are deemed competent by an appropriately trained and experienced person.

Note: This material has been prepared using the best information available to the Department of Labour at the time of publication. Information may change over time and it may be necessary for you to obtain an update. This material is also only intended to provide general advice and does not constitute legal advice. You should make your own judgement about action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with your workplace health and safety obligations under the law.

