

# SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 5



## Riding in back of utility

### Incident Description

An employee suffered a fractured skull and neck injuries when he fell from the back of a Toyota Landcruiser utility being used for weed spraying.

### Investigation

Breach of safety rules. An unsafe work practice of working from the rear utility tray of a moving vehicle was identified.

The vehicle suddenly moved while the employee was off balance and the employee fell approximately 1.5 metres.

The employee fell onto level ground, however, it is suspect that his head struck the vehicle when he fell.

No work method statement or risk assessment was found for this task.

Pre-work brief was inadequate for the work activity.

### Action:

- Cease all weed spraying until a Work Method Statement has been completed
- Reinforce safety rule of not riding in the back of a vehicle.
- All employees to be advised of this incident
- Communicate to all employees the importance and significance of using the "Take 5" approach in hazard identification and risk assessment. The implementation of "Take Five" would have prevented this accident