

NTPC Health & Safety Alert

Vehicle Rollover



Background

An NTPC employee was driving on the Dempster Highway at 70 km/h (20 km/h below the posted speed limit) in conditions that were reported to be windy, snowy, and icy. The vehicle hit a rough patch of road, full of potholes, and began to slide sideways. The vehicle entered the ditch and rolled once. The vehicle operator was taken to the health centre for examination, and fortunately, was released without injury. The incident was also reported to the RCMP.

Practical Guidance

Safe Work Practices (SWP) are guidelines for the safe performance of a task or activity and for the safe use of tools and equipment, including vehicles. They are based on legislation, industry best practice, and manufacturer specifications.

SWPs include important rules and guidelines that must be followed. When conducting work, it is crucial that workers are familiar with and reference SWPs to ensure proper work methods are followed and proper controls are used.

SWP 1.02 – Winter Driving provides many good tips for operating a vehicle in treacherous conditions. In part, it states that “Posted speed limits are meant for ideal conditions. Driving at reduced speeds will reduce risk while driving on slippery roads.”

Although the driver in this case was driving below the posted speed limit due to the weather conditions, additional caution should always be taken on rough or icy patches of road. It is important to drive according to the conditions and to adjust your speed accordingly as conditions change.

If it's been a while since you've reviewed *SWP 1.02*, now is a good time to give it another read as we head into the coldest part of the year. The document is full of great safety tips for winter driving, including what to do if your vehicle starts to skid, tips for braking on slippery roads, and what to do when stuck or stranded in snow.

Don't forget to visit the extensive library of SWPs, available on the Power Line, for all types of work that you do.

For more information, please contact your Divisional Health and Safety Coordinator.

