TOOLBOX TALK AWARENESS PACKAGES

HAZ-QUD · Quad Bike and Side-by-Side Safety Awareness

Product Overview

Audience: Farm workers, family members and outdoor crews who ride quad bikes or drive side-by-side vehicles · Duration: 20–30 minutes

Version 1.0 · 16 November 2026

For farm workers, family members and outdoor crews: choosing the right vehicle, rollover risks, helmets, no passengers on single-seat quads, no children on adult quads, and slopes and loads.

Quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles are some of the most useful machines on a farm or a large property, and some of the most dangerous. They can roll over on a slope, a bank, a gully or a turn, or when loaded or towing, and crush or throw the person riding. Riders are hurt on short, everyday trips as well as on hard ground. WHS or OHS laws require the business to manage these risks like any other, starting with whether a quad bike is the right vehicle for the job at all.

This talk covers why quads and side-by-sides roll, choosing the right vehicle for the task and the terrain, crush protection devices where they are fitted, competent riders, helmets, the rules on passengers and children, slopes, loads and towing, and checks before every ride. It is awareness, not rider training.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Explain how quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles roll over, and why everyday trips are where many riders are hurt
- Decide whether a quad bike is the right vehicle for the task, the load and the terrain, and when to use another vehicle or do the job another way
- Describe crush protection devices in general terms, and why one must be fitted and maintained as its maker says
- Follow the rider rules: trained riders only, a helmet on every ride, no passengers on single-seat quads and no children on adult-sized quads
- Keep slopes, loads, towing and speed within what the vehicle and the ground allow, and do a check before every ride
- Know when to stop, and report rollovers, near misses and vehicle faults

What it covers

Module	Covers
Why quads and side-by-sides roll	How rollovers happen; Slopes, loads and speed; Everyday trips, not just hard ground
Controls that work	The right vehicle for the job; Crush protection where fitted; Trained riders and helmets
Your part	Passengers and children; Checks before every ride; Stopping and reporting

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Activities

- Right vehicle: workers decide which vehicle, if any, suits three farm tasks, and why
- Ride or not: workers decide what to do in four situations where the vehicle, the rider, a passenger or the ground is not right

What is in the package

Item	File
Editable PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes, plus PDF	02_TRAINING_PRESENTATION/Training Presentation.pptx and .pdf
Facilitator guide with a running sheet, discussion prompts and model answers	03_FACILITATOR_GUIDE/Facilitator Guide.docx and .pdf
Participant handout with the key points to take away	04_PARTICIPANT_HANDOUT/Participant Handout.docx and .pdf
Attendance record form, to capture who attended, when, and who facilitated	06_RECORDS/Attendance Record.docx and .pdf
Excel attendance register	06_RECORDS/Attendance Register.xlsx
Multiple-choice theory assessment, to record understanding if your business wants to	05_ASSESSMENT/Theory Assessment.docx and .pdf
Answer key for the assessment	05_ASSESSMENT/Assessment Answer Key.docx and .pdf
Certificate template	06_RECORDS/Certificate Template.docx
Start here: Read Me First, Product Overview, Permitted Use Terms, Version Information	01_START_HERE/ (four PDFs)

What you need to deliver it

- A facilitator such as a supervisor, leading hand or WHS adviser who has read the facilitator guide and knows your site's arrangements for the topic
- A screen or projector, or printed slides or handouts: it works in a crib room, site office or on a video call
- Your own site procedures for the topic, to point to during the session

Questions

Is this quad bike rider training? No. It is awareness for everyone who rides, drives or decides who rides. Every rider needs hands-on training on the kind of vehicle they use, on the ground they will ride, before riding unsupervised.

Can we add our own site procedures and photos? Yes. The slides, handout and guide are editable, and the facilitator guide marks the places to add your own procedures, contacts and photos of your workplace.

Do we have to use the assessment? No. It is there if your business wants a record that each worker understood the key points. The attendance record on its own shows who attended and when.

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TOOLBOX TALK

Quad Bike and Side-by-Side Safety Awareness

Choosing the right vehicle, riding it safely, and nobody extra on board

20–30 minutes · Farm workers, family members and outdoor crews who ride quad bikes or drive side-by-side vehicles

[Company name] · [Date] · [Facilitator name]

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What this talk is, and is not

This talk covers

- ✓ How quads and side-by-sides roll
- ✓ The right vehicle for the job
- ✓ Crush protection, riders and helmets
- ✓ Passengers, children, slopes and loads

This talk is not

- ✕ Rider training on a quad or side-by-side
- ✕ Advice on which vehicle or device to buy
- ✕ Road rules or registration
- ✕ Our rules: **[Our quad bike and vehicle rules]**

Awareness only. Ride unsupervised only after hands-on training on that kind of vehicle.

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How quads and side-by-sides roll

Rollovers happen on everyday trips as well as on hard ground.

- Slopes, banks, gullies, dam walls and ditches tip them sideways or backwards
- Turning too fast, or across a slope, lifts the wheels on one side
- Loads, spray tanks and towed gear raise the centre of gravity and push
- Hidden holes, logs, stumps and rocks stop a wheel suddenly
- A quad that rolls can land on the rider; a side-by-side can crush a limb outside the cab

A composite example

- A farmhand takes a quad with a full spray tank along a sidling track to check a trough. He has done it a hundred times.
- The tank sloshes on a rut, the bike tips and rolls down the bank on top of him. Nobody knows where he is.

A short, familiar trip with a load is still a rollover risk.

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Duties under WHS or OHS laws

The business must

- Choose vehicles suited to the work and the terrain
- Maintain them, and fit and maintain any safety devices as the maker says
- Provide training, helmets and supervision
- Consult workers about the vehicles and the rules

You must

- Ride only vehicles you have been trained on
- Wear a helmet and follow the rider rules
- Not carry passengers or let children ride where the rules say no
- Report faults, near misses and rollovers

Victoria's OHS laws set similar duties in their own terms. Some states have their own quad bike rules too: check yours.

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The order of controls for quads and side-by-sides

1. **Elimination** No ride needed: walk, plan the job differently, or bring the work to the vehicle track
2. **Substitution** A safer vehicle for the task: side-by-side with seatbelt, ute, tractor, motorbike
3. **Isolation** Keep vehicles out of steep, wet or hazardous areas; keep children away
4. **Engineering** Crush protection where fitted; seatbelts and nets; loads within limits
5. **Administrative** Rider training, riding rules, checks before each ride, check-ins
6. **PPE** Helmet every ride, boots, gloves, eye protection

HIGHER ORDER

Higher order controls remove or control the hazard at the source, or put a barrier between people and the hazard.

LOWER ORDER

Lower order controls rely on people to do a thing or wear a thing, every time, tired, distracted or rushed.

Behaviours are not on the hierarchy, but behaviours and culture decide whether every control on it actually works.

The best control is often a different vehicle.

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Quad Bike and Side-by-Side Safety Awareness

Participant handout · keep this

Quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles can roll over and crush or throw the rider, on everyday trips as well as hard ground. The best control is often a different vehicle. Keep this page.

The order of controls

1. No ride needed: walk or plan the job differently
2. A safer vehicle for the task
3. Keep vehicles off hazardous ground; keep children away
4. Crush protection where fitted; seatbelts; loads within limits
5. Training, rules, checks, check-ins
6. Helmet every ride

Nobody extra on board

- No passengers on single-seat quads
- No children on adult-sized quads, as riders or passengers
- Side-by-side passengers in the maker's seats, belted in

On the ground

- Walk an unfamiliar or steep route first
- Avoid side slopes, banks and dam walls
- Slow down on rough ground; do not turn across a slope

Before every ride

- ☐ The task: is this the right vehicle for the job, load and ground?
- ☐ The rider: trained on this vehicle, fit and alert
- ☐ The helmet: on, done up, in good condition
- ☐ The vehicle: tyres, brakes, throttle, steering, lights, any crush protection device
- ☐ The load: within the maker's limits, secured, no extra people

Do not ride when

- The vehicle is faulty
- The slope, ground or load is beyond it
- You are not trained on it, or not fit to ride
- Call: **[Who to call about a vehicle or task]**

Report it

- **[Who to report to here]**
- Rollovers, near misses, faults, unsafe tasks
- Riders and areas: **[Who may ride and where]**

Right vehicle, trained rider, helmet on, nobody extra on board.

This is awareness training. It is not a licence, a ticket, a permit or a competency. It does not train you to ride a quad bike or drive a side-by-side.

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