

Hazard Fact Sheet – Driving and Traffic Hazards

What is the Hazard?
Driving on and around solar farms involves risks from fatigue, long travel distances, unsealed roads, and high vehicle traffic between work areas.

Types of Injuries / Health Effects

- Serious or fatal injuries from rollovers or collisions
- Musculoskeletal injuries from poor posture or vibration
- Injuries during loading/unloading

Causes / Scenarios

- Fatigue after long shifts or travel to site
- Speeding or ignoring site speed limits
- Wildlife hazards and poor road conditions
- Operating vehicles without site induction or training

Control Measures

- Drive only if authorised and competent. Always wear your seatbelt.
- Follow all traffic signage and posted speed limits.
- Slow down on unsealed, wet, dusty, or rutted roads, increase your following distance, and avoid sudden braking or sharp turns that can cause rollovers.
- Do not drive fatigued.
- Complete daily vehicle checks (tyres, lights, fluids).
- Scan ahead for animals, especially at dawn, dusk and night.

Case Example:

Vehicle Crashes on Rural Roads to/from Solar Sites
Fatalities have occurred on rural roads used for commuting to solar farms, where narrow shoulders, poor visibility, and high heavy-vehicle volumes created increased collision risk for workers travelling to site.

Key Lessons Learned:

- Drive carefully on rural roads, slow down, watch for sharp edges, and be alert for trucks.
- Use provided transport or shuttles when available. It's safer than long solo drives.
- Avoid driving when tired. Take breaks and speak up if you're not fit to travel.

https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/general-guide-workplace-traffic-management

Safe Work Australia – General Guide: Workplace Traffic management