

1 Incident:

Vehicle was driving down the estate road at speed.

The driver was told to brake by a passenger. The driver “hit the brakes”, this hard braking, in addition to the speed being driven on a heavily gravelled road, caused the van driver to lose control. The van went into a slide and flipped on its side sliding across the headland into the vineyard strainer posts.

2 Cause:

Direct causes of the incident were found to be:

1. Excessive speeding – driver travelling faster than estate speed limit.
2. Driver inexperienced driving on gravel roads.
3. Presence of mind - the team in the van were the last to finish for the day and were thinking about a staff party they were attending that afternoon.

The root causes were found to be:

1. Driver training was initially limited to sealed roads.
2. Staff were found to take shortcuts with the supervisor signing team off site and leaving the site before the crew. They did not follow correct process.

3 Key learnings:



Stay in the present.

No matter what task you are undertaking, even if you have done it a hundred times before, don't take shortcuts or speed - accidents can happen.

Vehicle seat belts save lives.

The injuries sustained in this vehicle incident were minor bruising from the seat belts and grazes to the arms. As the company supplied good equipment and had a good culture of always wearing seat belts, this greatly reduced the severity of the injuries.

