

## **SAFETY ALERT**

# **Shared Learning's**

### **INCIDENT TITLE:**

**Timely Reminder of the Importance of the Pre-Use Vehicle Check**

### **TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:**

**13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **INCIDENT DETAIL :**

While traveling a Ute gull wing tool box catch become loose and resulted in the tool box hatch accidentally opening.

A prop valve and two screwdrivers fell out of the tool box whilst driving around a bend. The driver realised what had happened straight away and pulled over in a layby 30 meters on. All items were safely retrieved on the side of the road. No vehicles were behind the Ute at the time.

A similar event occurred at our Mt Mercer Wind Farm involving a contractor flat deck Ute. A battery powered Hi Torque unit was not tied down and as the vehicle rounded the bend the tool in its case fell off. The tool was damaged beyond repair.

### **INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :**

In the first event the vehicle safely stopped straight away. Retrieved the broken prop valve and screw drivers. The left hatch had a loose catch that caused it to accidentally open. This has now been fixed. It is unknown if the other latch was accidentally left open or not engaging correctly.

The second event identified a steel box sliding on the steel deck of the Ute pushing the Hi Torque unit off the vehicle. The main contributing factor was that the equipment was not tied down.

### **LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:**

Please use this as a timely reminder to carry out a quick pre-use check of your vehicle before every journey. This check should include your Ute tool box latches where applicable. It is also recommended that all nyloc nuts are checked on the latches and re tightened. The adjustment locking nuts should also be setup correctly to ensure the correct fitting of lock.



Nyloc latch holding nuts X4

Latch adjustment locking nuts

In the second event recommendations have been made to ensure all site vehicles are fit for purpose, have adequate tie downs, a cargo net provided to fit over the deck and a rubber mat to be fitted to all deck Utes.

### **PHOTO:**



Photo 1 Wind Ute Toolbox

Photo 2 Ute set up not tied down

The Corporate Safety and Health Team are currently working on systems to support the above learnings. If interested in viewing the full investigation report for this incident, it can be found in: Safety Manager ID Number 912039 & 914958. If you do not have access to Safety Manager contact a member of Meridian's Corporate Safety and Health team.



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