

SAFETY ALERT

28 September 2020

ACCIDENT – VEHICLE COLLIDED INTO REAR-END OF THIRD-PARTY VEHICLE ON A DOWNHILL

WHAT HAPPENED:

On Wednesday evening, 23 September 2020, a vehicle was travelling from Lichtenburg to Matsulu, loaded with palletised cement. The truck collided into the rear-end of a third-party's vehicle.

Based on the preliminary findings, the driver started the downhill descent in an incorrect gear selection, resulting in the vehicle accelerating as it was progressing downhill. This resulted in the driver losing his ability to control the speed of the vehicle.

LEARNINGS:

From the investigation, the following was identified:

1. Be mindful of warning signs along the route.
2. When driving on uphill and downhill roads, ensure correct gear selection at start of climb or descent.

PREVENTATIVE CONTROLS:

The following controls will be implemented to prevent similar incidents:

1. Identify training needs and implement training plans for drivers.
2. Implement Journey Management Plans, highlighting high risk areas.
3. Create awareness regarding route conditions – in this case the risk of driving in mountains and mountain passes.