



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND

Date: Saturday 7th of March 2026

To: ALL Clubs, Members and Staff

From: Scott Weatherall (National Health & Safety Advisor)

Subject: **UPDATED Safety Alert re Travelling in the back of Side by Sides/Light Utility Vehicles**

This Safety Alert has been updated to clarify that travel in a Light Utility Vehicle (LUV) is permitted; however, passengers must not travel in the rear tray. We have also clarified the guidance regarding the transport of injured persons.

With immediate effect, members are not permitted to travel in:

- The back tray of Side-by-Sides
- The back tray of Light Utility Vehicles (LUVs)
- Any trailers
- Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRBs) while they are being transported on trailers

This directive applies at all times and without exception.

We acknowledge that there may be situations where injured patients need to be transported on spine boards or similar equipment on the back tray. This is permitted only with appropriate walking support behind the vehicle and at walking speed. Where practicable, any other patients should be transported in the front of the vehicle.

This reminder follows a serious member injury where an individual was thrown from the rear of a Light Utility Vehicle. The incident highlights the significant risks associated with travelling in unsecured rear compartments or trailers.

Member safety is our highest priority, and this measure is necessary to prevent further injuries.

Required Action

- Clubs are requested to circulate this alert urgently to all members.
- Please ensure all patrol members, drivers, and operational personnel are aware of and comply with this directive immediately.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please make contact on: 027 4404 700

Thank you for your immediate attention and cooperation in keeping our members safe.

Thank you.



In it for life



Scott Weatherall

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