

This month, Tim Kirk takes a look at off-road driving

Making tracks

Many people in the land base sector use 4 x 4 vehicles, indeed they are an invaluable mode of transport helping drivers get to their place of work on schedule with any load they may be carrying intact.

There are several regulations under the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1992 which place legal duties on employers, employees and the self employed. Employers have a duty of care to ensure that employees are properly trained to operate equipment they must use in the work place and that includes 4 x 4 vehicles.

Most drivers who attend an off-road driving course are amazed at how little they know about the principles of off-road driving. Usually they have been driving for years without understanding how their vehicle works. Most have a good tale to tell.

Recognised by various Government departments as a standard setting body, ATB-Landbase has developed off-road training courses which lead to the attainment of a national stan-

dard in off-road driving ability.

A good off-road driver knows the capabilities and limitations of his vehicle. He will reduce operating costs by sympathetic driving techniques, reducing wear and tear on the components of the vehicle. He will minimise the environmental damage by preventing unnecessary churning up of the land.

On a Professional off-road driving course a trainee will learn how to recognise a safe working environment, assess the suitability of ground, prepare and perform the necessary maintenance checks to ensure the safety of the vehicle, route plan and safely operate a vehicle in a variety of off-road conditions such as slopes, mud, obstacles, water and understand the dangers of vehicle recovery.

For further information on training courses and consultancy contact Jean John at Agenda Training Limited on 01282 831973 or Tim Kirk at Kirk Forestry on 01484 685114.



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