

ONLINE ARTICLE

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GRAIN truck operators for the CBH Group in Western Australia were forced to sit idle for five hours on Tuesday, but the company says it will not hesitate to carry out stoppages again if it brings a renewed focus on safety.

CBH Group operations general manager Colin Tutt said the decision to force down time for all outturn and road movements between 7am to 12pm was necessary.

The move was prompted by three truck incidents occurring in the Albany, Kwinana and Esperance zone over the past four days.

"There has been a total of 10 rollovers since harvest so we decided to have a bit of a break and reflect internally on what needs to be done to improve safety," Tutt said.

"The decision was made yesterday afternoon after a particularly bad rollover in Borden when the driver was hurt pretty badly.

"The driver was going down a hill and his trailer clipped the edge, he overcorrected and the back trailer flipped."

Tutt said about 75 to 80 CBH truck drivers and contractors were affected by the stoppage, which he had received positive comments from industry about.

"We don't want a fatality so we have to put safety before productivity," he said.

“We need people to slow down and drive safely and if there are any delays loading, then we need to fix those.”

On reflection, Tutt said the stoppage should have been carried out in previous years.

“If we feel we need to have a bit of a break, we wouldn’t hesitate to do it again,” he said.

“Even in harvest season, we wouldn’t hesitate.”

Tutt said the CBH Group would continue working with road transport contractors to ensure safety strategies, including fatigue management, are in place to address the issues.