

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for January 2011

Fall of Person (6)

- A worker fell from an extension ladder while re-gassing a suspension cylinder on a position 1 tyre of a Cat 793 dump truck. He struck his head on the tyre and concrete floor. He sustained a concussion and bruising.
- While fitters were removing the radiator assembly from a CAT 784C Coal Hauler the air box to which handrails were attached was removed from the truck leaving the fitters exposed to a 4m fall hazard.
- A worker fell 1.8m from the tray of a truck while assisting to load a generator. He suffered a compound fracture to his lower right leg.
- A worker was tightening a bolt on a crusher when the torque wrench slipped off the nut and he fell awkwardly to the floor. He fractured his left lower tibia and dislocated his left ankle.

Fall of Equipment (16)

- A dump tip edge collapsed under a Cat 793 dump truck as it reversed to tip. The driver evacuated as the truck subsided.
- A Cat 793 dump truck was reversing into position to dump short when the edge of the tip head collapsed, resulting in the back wheels going over the edge.
- A dragline subsided when the pad it was working from started cracking due to a minor failure in the face. The dragline was walked onto stable ground.
- A 95kg load which was being lifted by a crane dropped onto the tray of a truck when the shackle pin unscrewed.
- A sheet of steel mesh flooring being removed from a transfer tower slipped from the workers' hands and fell to the ground narrowly missing some other workers on a lower level.
- A fitter was using a porta-power and spacer block assembly on a workshop bench to repair a damaged continuous miner hose support bracket. The assembly slipped and the bracket fell off the bench striking the fitter's boot and breaking a toe.
- A boilermaker was crimping pipe swages onto a wire rope when the hydraulic press assembly fell and crushed his hand against the press frame.

Fall of Ground (10)

- A fall of ground in a drive from the footwall engulfed a Cat 1300 underground loader. The operator was rescued from the loader via the rear window.

- A 200t rockfall occurred on an incline while it was being developed.
- A roof fall of approximately 50m³ and extending across the five tailgate shields occurred on a longwall face.
- A slippery back structure approximately 30m in length failed in the high wall resulting in a rockfall.
- A circular failure of approximately 35000bcm of sandy material occurred from the crest of a highwall ramp.

Mechanical (22)

- While a tyre handler was positioning a Cat 797 dump truck tyre the tyre grab assembly failed at the slew bearing resulting in the tyre and grab assembly lowering to the ground.
- A grader was using towing chain to pull a bogged light truck when the chain broke smashing the truck windscreen.
- During a minesite acceptance inspection of a roadtrain a tyre on the truck blew out due to a zipper type failure.
- While lowering a powered support on a longwall the support continued to lower after the valve was released.
- A fitter received a possible hydraulic fluid injection injury when a pressure inter-chock hose burst on a longwall.
- A fitter was hit by a drag rope while re-socketing a rope on a dragline.
- A driller's offsider was using a hardened steel sledgehammer to break out rods on a drill rig when a piece of the hammer flew off and embedded in his left shoulder.

Vehicle – Collision (15)

- A reversing Cat D10 dozer collided with a coal hauler which was dumping at a stockpile.
- An Eimco 130 loader carrying a mesh pod and travelling into a development panel struck the side of an airtrack drill rig, which was parked on the side of the access road.
- A Cat 793C dump truck narrowly avoided a collision when the operator failed to give way to a JLG Telehandler at an intersection.
- Two Hitachi EH4500 dump trucks were involved in a rear end collision while travelling to a shovel to be loaded.
- The driver of a concrete truck, on his way down a decline, lost control of the vehicle and contacted the wall.
- A dozer backed into a parked light vehicle.

- An Atlas Copco ST1520 loader mucking to a recess that was designated as 'no parking' collided with a service vehicle that parked in the recess.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (27)

- An operator lost control of his Cat 633 scraper when the hydraulic steering line failed. The scraper ended up on the opposite side of the haul road.
- While waiting to be loaded a Komatsu 930E dump truck rolled back 35m. At the time the operator was on the ground isolating the truck after it had lost propulsion.
- When a light vehicle went over a bump the lighting plant it was towing uncoupled, the safety chain broke and the lighting plant rolled back 40m.
- After a Cat 789 dump truck overtook a grader the truck skidded on a recently watered section of road as it moved back to the left hand side of the road.
- A rear wheel fell off a light vehicle after all the wheel studs broke.
- A Cat 793 dump truck was at the bottom of the ramp and turning into the pit when it hit a wet section of road and slid into the centre berm.
- A worker lost control of a 10t Cat forklift when it gained speed while transporting conveyor splicing equipment down a portal ramp in first gear. He drove the forklift into the wall to stop it.
- A Toyota troop carrier rolled onto its side when the driver lost control of the vehicle while travelling down a wet ramp.
- A Cat 930E dump truck slid while leaving a dump and came to a stop against a safety berm.
- A low loader truck was transporting a roll of conveyor belt to a lay down area when it rolled over while turning a corner.
- A Moxy 40t articulated truck tray tipped over while backing up to tip. The cab remained upright.
- While driving in the pit, an operator of a Cat 785 dump truck had a micro sleep and drove into a safety berm.

Explosion (7)

- A generator battery exploded when the generator was started.
- While starting a trailer mounted dewatering pump the workers noticed smoke coming from a broken isolator and from under the battery box. Shortly after, the battery lid blew off spraying acid on the workers.
- While carrying out a daily inspection on a continuous miner an electrician found the flame path gap on a solenoid enclosure on the main valve bank to be greater than the allowable gap.
- An instrument transformer associated with a 20MW 132/11kV power transformer exploded throwing oil, internal components and pieces of ceramic insulation over a radius of 20 metres and started a fire in the 11kV cables.

Fire (30)

- A boilermaker suffered burns to his chest when a flashback occurred at the handle of an oxy acetylene torch.

- A small fire started in the engine bay of a Drilltech 750 drill rig when a mast hydraulic hose ruptured and oil dripped onto the hot exhaust.
- A leak in a hydraulic hose sprayed oil onto the hot engine parts of a blast hole drill rig. The resulting fire was extinguished by the on-board suppression system.
- Oil dripping from a worn braided hose in the engine bay of a Cat D10 dozer caught fire. The operator put it out with a hand held extinguisher.
- The turbo on a dozer failed and exploded causing oil to spray over the hot engine. The resultant fire was extinguished by the on-board suppression system.
- A fire occurred in the engine bay of a Cat D10R dozer after a hydraulic hose failed spraying oil onto the hot turbo.
- Burning oil from a turbo fire on a Komatsu 930E dump truck sprayed onto the pos 2 tyre igniting the tyre. The fire was extinguished and the truck isolated in an exclusion zone for 24 hours.
- While filling up a fuel pod located beside a Legra pump, diesel sprayed out of the overflow valve onto the exhaust manifold of the pump and started a small fire.

Electrical (17)

- A worker received an electric shock while servicing a diesel generator. The earth wire had broken away from the earth stake.
- A fitter received an electric shock from the pendant control of a crane which is believed to have had moisture in it.
- A worker received an electric shock while unplugging a MIG welder from the power lead when his fingers came into contact with the pins on the plug.
- A Terex RH340 Excavator had its bucket raised while being walked to a new location. As it passed under a 66kV power line at a designated crossing it contacted one of the wires causing it to break. The power tripped off.
- A failure of a tailings line running under an 11kV power line resulted in the line being covered in tailings which tripped the power off.
- During a conveyor extension, a lockout switch was incorrectly programmed. This subsequently allowed the conveyor to start despite the lockout switch being in the off position.

Other (9)

- A worker was bitten on the leg by a snake while servicing equipment.
- A surface blast crew worker was treated for heat stress symptoms.
- A Jumbo operator was taken to hospital with possible heat stress symptoms.
- A boilermaker working on a smelter furnace was affected by carbon monoxide fumes from the smelting process.
- Following recent heavy rains the northern wall of a quarry storage dam failed resulting in water flowing onto an adjacent property.

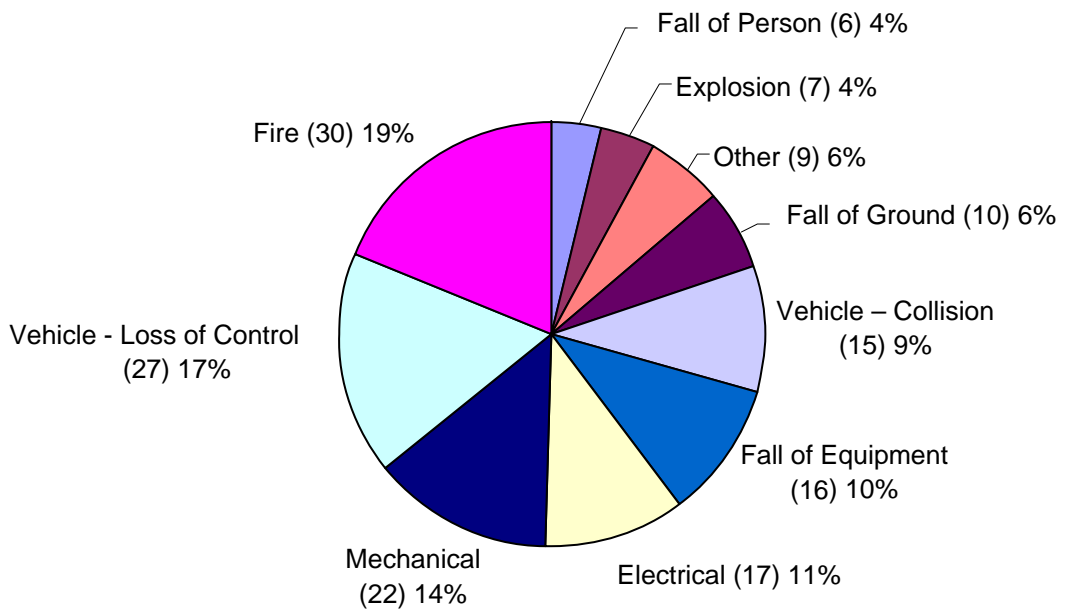


Figure 1: January 2011 Incidents (total 159) by Category

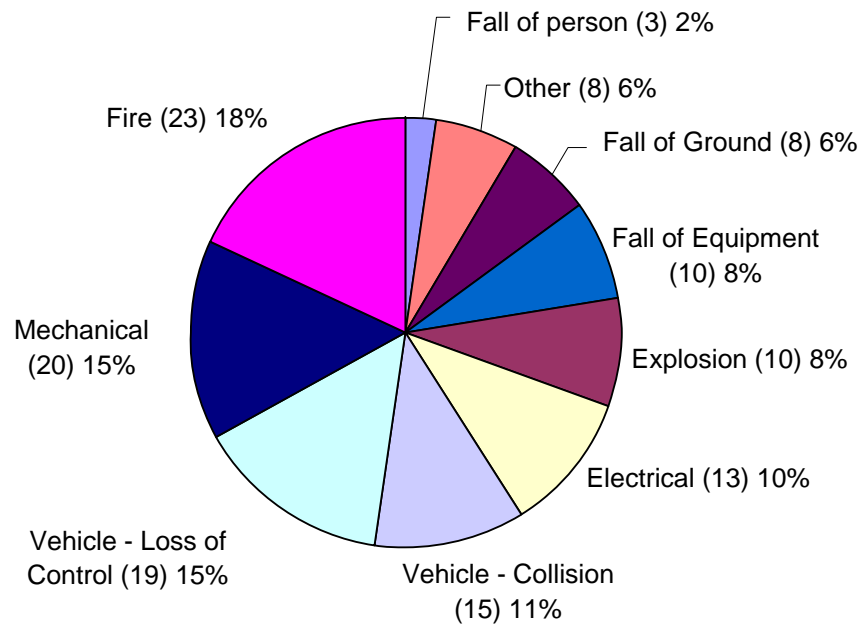


Figure 2: Twelve Month Rolling Average (130 incidents/month) by Category