

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Handling earthmoving equipment tyres

### BACKGROUND

The Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) released Safety Bulletin No. 89 on 13 November 2009 about a series of incidents involving earthmoving equipment tyres and the operation of tyre-handling machinery. There have been seven fatalities involving the handling of tyres at various Australasian mines in the past few years. Many in the mining industry are not sufficiently aware of the hazards involved in working with earthmoving equipment tyres and safety procedures are not always followed. Earthmoving equipment tyres, rims and wheel assemblies must be regarded as safety critical items that need to be maintained by competent people in accordance with documented systems of work addressing all of the risks involved.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Employees carrying out tyre-fitting work must undertake formal training.
- Tyre-fitting workshop facilities should be constructed and arranged to minimise risk to operators and others in the vicinity.
- Tyre-fitting procedures must be established (refer to *AS 4457.1:2007 Earthmoving machinery – off-the-road wheels, rims and tyres – maintenance and repair – wheel assemblies and rim assemblies*).
- Tyre-handling machinery must be maintained in a fit-for-purpose condition with appropriate supporting maintenance records kept.
- During inflation, monitor tyre pressure from a safe distance.
- Hydraulic pressure-limiting devices should be fitted to clamping arms.
- Review DMP Mines Safety Bulletin No. 89 *Earthmoving equipment tyres and use of tyre-handling machinery* at [www.dmp.wa.gov.au](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au)
- Review I&I NSW Safety Alerts SA04-01, SA04-07, SA05-09, SA05-14 and SA08-03 at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/safety-alerts](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/safety-alerts)

**NOTE:** Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Bulletin, and are informed of its content and recommendations.

Signed



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