

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for June 2011

Fall of Person (4)

- A worker was completing prestart checks on an Eimco and was in the process of filling the scrubber tank when he stepped onto the 25mm water hose causing him to slip. The worker suffered a spiral fracture to the left tibia and ankle ligament damage.
- The operator of a CAT 740 Dump truck was dismantling the machine and fell from the bottom step. The operator suffered a broken elbow and bruising to the hip.

Fall of Equipment/Material (10)

- A 25 Tonne Franna crane was being used to lower a walkway to the ground when the rope snapped. The walkway, hook and sheaves fell to the ground in the demarcated area.
- A workers hand was crushed by the propel gear cover and he suffered three fractured fingers.
- The head rope on a cage was being replaced utilising the old rope and a winch. Speed control of the winch was momentarily lost by the operator.
- Contractors were in the process of removing a pressure grouting hose from a vertical hole when the reel being used to guide the hose came off the supporting stand. The bar utilised to support the reel hit a worker on his back.

Fall of Ground (10)

- A dozer was being used to clean out a 10m deep coal trench below a dragline. Part of the edge of the trench fell onto the dozer causing minor damage to the machine.
- In an underground coal mine, the crew were driving through faulted ground when a slab of stone fell onto the head of a worker then slid sideways pushing the worker against the bolting control guard.
- A rock fell 10m from near the top of a ladder rise in an underground metalliferous mine and slid down the outside of the ladder cage damaging the cage. There was nobody in the area at the time.
- A rock rolled down an embankment and struck a worker on the knee while he was laying drainage pipe at the foot of the embankment beside the access road.
- A CAT 972 loader was loading dust from a stockpile when the pile collapsed onto the bucket. This caused the rear of the machine to lift off the ground.

Mechanical (11)

- A lighting plant was being towed to a new location when one of the stabilising legs came loose. When the leg touched the ground, it broke off and was flung onto the roof of the towing vehicle.
- At the completion of a maintenance day on a Marion 8050 dragline, a tradesperson went to close the rear doors when one of the doors started to lean toward the tradesman and then fell onto the MG set. The welds on the hinges were of poor quality with insufficient penetration of the weld.
- The rear universal joint on a Coal Tram 10 loader failed and the associated drive shaft pierced the floor of the operator's cabin.
- During maintenance on a dragline, the bucket paid out approximately 15m unexpectedly when half of the drag brakes were released.
- A worker opened a valve on a longwall roof support which supplied high pressure fluid through an unrestrained and open ended hose. The hose whipped around striking the worker. The worker suffered bruising, fractured finger and fluid injection into open wounds.

Vehicle – Collision (21)

- A grader was working on a back access road to a mine and contacted an energised dragline cable causing a short circuit fault.
- Two CAT 789C trucks collided at a tip head. One truck had stopped and was about to reverse to complete dumping his load when the second truck drove onto the tip head and made contact with the first truck.
- While driving an underground man transport with crew on board to the workshop to refuel the driver was temporarily blinded by the glare of the sun and collided with the rear of a stationary LHD parked adjacent to the workshop.
- A fitter parked his light vehicle against a CAT 777 to make repairs to the truck. The fitter moved the 777 forward colliding with his light vehicle.
- After pulling up at a stop sign to turn right at an intersection the operator of a Hitachi 4000 rear dump truck checked the road on his right and then paused to adjust his seatbelt. When he drove forward a Cat 785C dump truck coming from the right had to take evasive action and swerved to avoid colliding with the Hitachi truck.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (33)

- A CAT 785C was travelling around a left hand corner when the truck hit a recently watered section of road causing the rear wheels to slide out. The truck slid for 75m.
- A Bucyrus MT4400 was experiencing propulsion issues and was parked on a ramp with the wheels pointing up the ramp. The operator got off the truck to isolate it when the truck rolled backwards down the ramp.
- The operator of a CAT 789 rear dump truck drove onto a circuit that was closed due to wet weather. The truck skidded along the road for 35m.
- A Driftrunner was parked in a cut-through with the park brake applied. As the operator went to chock the wheels, the vehicle rolled 3m and contacted a supply pod. A review of brake testing history revealed that the performance of the park brake had significantly degraded over time.
- The operator of a rear dump truck was reaching behind the seat for some paper towel and veered to the left side of the road.
- Control of a 797B was lost when the operator steered onto the wet line on the road whilst retarding the truck. The truck slid into the bund wall on the edge of the road.
- A dozer was moving from the pit floor onto a 4m high bench when it travelled over a large rock causing the dozer to roll onto its side.
- The rear wheels of a small dump truck sank in soft fill whilst tipping causing the truck to roll onto its side.
- The operator alighted from a Moxy Truck on the top of a rise with the engine left running. The truck rolled approximately 30m downhill hitting a fuel trailer and coming to rest against a drill rig.

Explosion (19)

- Power was able to be applied to face equipment in an underground coal mine without the auxiliary fan running.
- A LHD was operating in an underground coal mine with one headlight missing.
- A small steel identification tag was found caught in the flamepath of a continuous miner.

Fire (36)

- A recently overhauled excavator was extensively damaged by a fire.
- A CAT D10T dozer was parked in the workshop when smoke was observed coming from the battery junction box.
- The operator boarded an EX23 Hitachi 5000 Excavator and activated the button to fold up the stairs. The stairs failed to lock in the folded position due to the electric motor catching fire.

- The driver of a light vehicle noticed a burning smell and pulled over to investigate. Another vehicle pulled up behind and noticed smoke coming from wiring associated with the vehicle loading crane.
- A fire occurred on an O&K Excavator during a maintenance shift as a result of degreaser being applied to the turbo.
- A fire broke out on a lighting plant due to a battery short circuit.
- A small fire started due to ignition of oil and grease on an overheating disc brake of a rear dump truck.

Electrical (8)

- During core drilling of concrete, the worker received an electric shock. At the same time, the assistant who was holding the inline RCD protective device received a shock.
- The operator of a dragline requested that the bucket be lowered but the bucket continued to be lifted (hoisted).
- An operator was in the basket of an IT changing out the delivery hose on an 8kW submersible pump when he felt a shock from the chain supporting the pump.

Other (31)

- A level 4 fume event occurred after a shot was slept for over 3 weeks. The 2 km exclusion zone was not breached.
- A dozer operator that was working on a dump became ill after inhaling fumes from spontaneous combustion.
- After the dragline operator emptied the bucket of its load, a shudder was felt on the machine. The left hand shoe was observed to be moving in a forward direction and only stopped when the shoe was on the ground.
- A shot was in the process of being loaded when contractors entered the demarcated area of the shot attempting to manoeuvre a drill rig onto the adjacent drill pattern. The rig trammed across an area where there were baited and loaded holes.
- PJB driver sustained a fractured radius of the right arm when the second of two air doors closed pinching his arm against the side of the vehicle. The driver hesitated clearing the area having reacted to a noise from behind the vehicle
- A drillers offside incurred a needle stick injury. The used needle was amongst the core trays that were packed by the supplier.
- A new worker to site was found to be in close proximity to a 9 meter void. The worker was not aware of the site procedures for working in this area.
- A worker gashed his hand whilst he was trimming the edge of a conveyor belt with a Stanley knife. He required surgery to repair a severed tendon in his right hand.

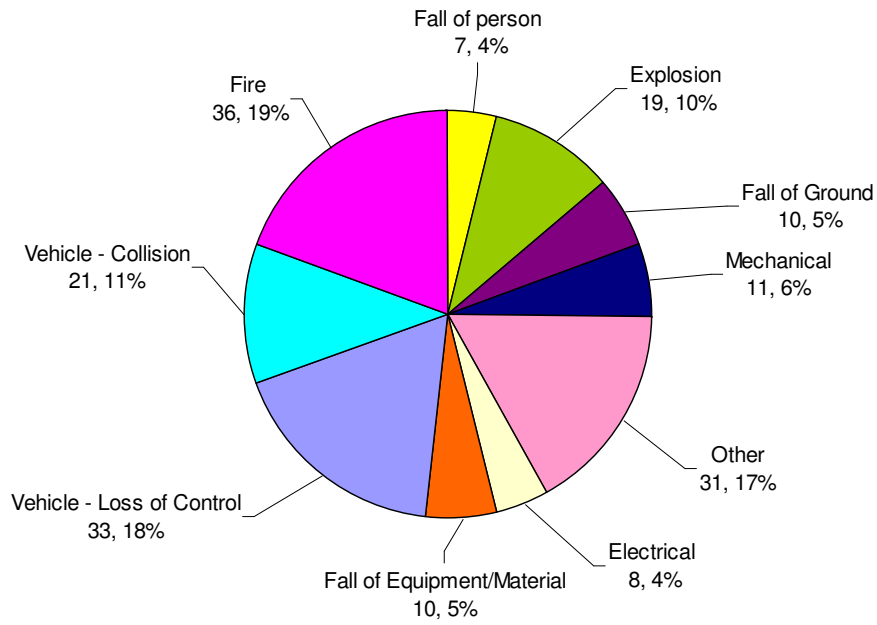


Figure 1: June 2011 Incidents (total 186) by Category

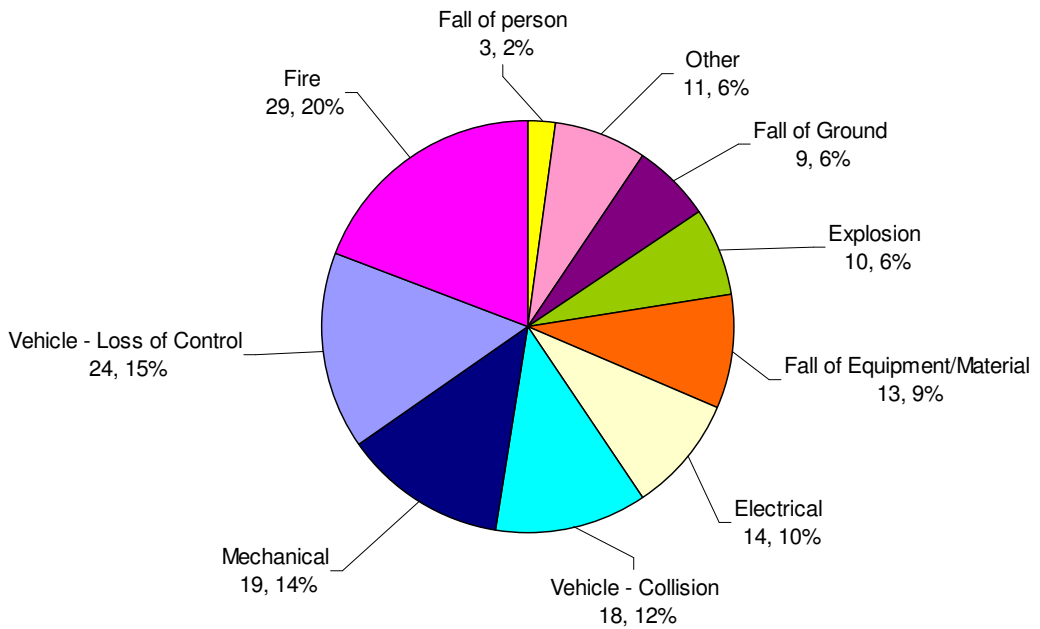


Figure 2: Twelve Month Rolling Average (151 incidents/month) by Category

() The number in brackets next to each category heading is the total number of accidents and incidents reported for that category.