

Safety alert

Mines Inspectorate

Safety alert no. 258
24 February 2011

Rail safety at coal mines

Mine type: Coal mines

Incident: A coal mine worker died and another was seriously injured when a light vehicle and a train collided at a level crossing. The crossing was on land adjoining, adjacent to and contiguous with the boundaries of a coal mine.

Equipment: A coal train and a four-wheel-drive utility

Hazard to coal mine workers: Rail activities including locomotives and rolling stock

Cause: Under investigation.

Comments: The incident is being investigated under the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* (Qld) because section 9 of the Act defines a coal mine as any of the following places:

- (a) a place where on-site activities are carried on, continuously or from time to time, within the boundaries of land the subject of a mining tenure;
- (b) a place where on-site activities are carried on, continuously or from time to time, on land adjoining, adjacent to, or contiguous with, the boundaries of land the subject of a mining tenure and within which is a place mentioned in paragraph (a); ...

Recommendation: That coal mines review their Safety and Health Management System to ensure on-site activities in rail corridors and level crossings are being managed at an acceptable level of risk.

Gavin Taylor

Chief Inspector of Coal Mines

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Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety alert. Any such advice supplied to site should reach those who require it, and it should also be placed on the mine noticeboards.

See more Safety alerts and Safety bulletins at
www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/safety_information___bulletins.cfm

