

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for September 2010

Fall of Person (4)

- A worker suffered a head laceration and contusion when he fell 1.8 metres from a work platform.
- A worker suffered possible concussion when he fell from a ladder of a Liebherr 996 shovel.
- A worker fell 500mm from a ladder mounted on the side of a fuel pod when the ladder collapsed in against the pod. He suffered a compound fracture of his lower left leg.

Fall of Equipment (5)

- A dozer working on a coal product stockpile reversed over a loadout chute and slumped into the draw cone.
- The timber sleeper decking on a bridge over an access road broke under the weight of a 20 tonne Franna crane.
- An underground production drill rig was drilling an uphole when a section of the backfilled floor under the front of the rig slumped creating a 2m deep x 3m diameter hole.
- A 2.5m long x 150mm diameter pipe fell 5.3m from the roof of a process plant. It ricocheted off a catwalk handrail before striking a worker on the landing below. The worker was taken to hospital with concussion.
- Two previously installed cablebolts fell out of their holes while a jumbo was scaling the back.

Fall of Ground (13)

- A large rock rolled from a 12m high dig face and struck the stairs of an O&K RH200 face shovel parked 5m from the dig face while maintenance was being carried out on the bucket.
- A rock fell from the back and hit a miner on the shoulder while he was clearing upholes.
- A development charger was cleaning holes in the mining face preparation for charging when a 90kg rock fell from the face striking him a glancing blow on the head and shoulders.
- A large rock fell from the tray of a Cat 773 dump truck while tipping into a crusher bin and landed on the access road beside the crusher.
- A worker was using a jack hammer to remove concrete build-up in a pugmill hopper when a lump of concrete fell and struck him on the left leg. He sustained a deep gash in his leg and was taken to hospital.
- Approximately 1.5 tonnes of rock fell from the back onto the boom of a shotcreting rig after the back had been scaled and the first coat of shotcrete applied.

Mechanical (21)

- A Franna crane was being used to position a tailshaft in a Cat 793 dump truck when the winch rope broke. The hook and tailshaft fell onto the transmission.
- A 50 tonne mobile crane was slewing a load when the hook block failed and the load fell 4m to the ground.
- A dragline was excavating a drain against the low wall spoil when the drag ropes flicked up a rock which landed on the engine cover of a Cat D11 dozer.
- When a Sandvik ED7 loader started up the crowd function operated unexpectedly raising the bucket and load to the roof.
- While a light vehicle was travelling down a ramp its right rear wheel detached and rolled 250m down the ramp.
- While using a pedestal drill press the operator's glove caught on the rotating chuck and was pulled in towards the drill. His head contacted the drill and his shirt which also caught on the chuck was ripped off. Unable to engage the emergency stop he called out to a worker nearby who turned the drill off. The operator sustained injuries to his hand and face.
- The feed rail assembly on a development drill jumbo rolled over unexpectedly when the boom was lifted during maintenance.
- A shaft cage with 16 workers inside tripped about 200m below the surface. While the fault was being fixed the brakes released and the cage travelled uncontrolled up the shaft. The cage stopped just below the surface when the emergency brake was activated.
- A worker was knocked off his feet when a 200mm diameter layflat hose pumping water from a pit whipped across the ground. He suffered a suspected broken collar bone and a gash on his head.

Vehicle – Collision (12)

- A maintenance worker carrying out a service on a Cat 785 dump truck while the truck was refuelling had to quickly get out of the way when the truck horn sounded before the truck moved off.
- A Cat D11 dozer was damaged when it was struck by a Hitachi 550 excavator while cleaning up in the swing radius of the excavator.
- A light vehicle was struck by the shoe of a BE 1370 dragline when the dragline started to swing into position after maintenance.

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

- A Komatsu 830E dump truck reversed into the side of a dozer on a waste dump tip head.
- A Cat 16H grader reversed into a stationary haul truck on the pit floor.
- A Cat 988 loader reversed into the side of a Cat 773 water truck.
- A Cat 980 loader reversed into a parked light vehicle.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (17)

- The driver of a Cat 793 dump truck fell asleep on nightshift and collided with the road dividing bund.
- A Cat 797 dump truck lost traction while driving down an over-watered section of a ramp on nightshift. The truck slid for about 50 metres, turned 90 degrees and slid into the safety bund.
- A Komatsu 630 dump truck lost traction during nightshift while travelling unloaded down a ramp when the off side tyres travelled onto the wet uphill haul side. The truck slid for 20m and turned through 180 degrees.
- The operators of two dump trucks on nightshift lost control of their trucks on the same wet section of haul road.
- A light vehicle slid 35m on a haul road which had become wet by rain.
- A light vehicle was rounding a right hand bend on a service road when it mounted the left hand bund and rolled over.
- A light vehicle skidded for 20m on a recently watered road. The driver had braked after realising he had driven onto the haul road on the wrong side of the centre bund.
- A Normet charge car rolled uncontrolled down an underground ramp for 150m after it had shut down due to low radiator fluid level and there had been a delay in the application of the secondary brake. The operator jumped clear.
- A Franna crane rolled over on uneven ground while moving a 6 tonne load.

Explosion (10)

- An acetylene bottle fell from the back of a service truck as it drove round a corner.
- The bolts securing the engine explosion protection exhaust on a PJB transporter were found to be loose.
- A large piece of stone, which was expelled by the continuous miner during cutting, struck and damaged an hour meter flameproof enclosure window on the adjacent coal hauler.
- A generator battery exploded when the generator started.

Fire (16)

- A fire started in the engine housing of a Reichdrill surface production drill rig after an oil separator ruptured and oil sprayed onto the exhaust and turbo. The driller used the onboard fire suppression system and a fire extinguisher to put the fire out.

- Oil leaking onto the turbo from an incorrectly fitted transmission oil cap resulted in a fire on a Cat D10 dozer. The operator activated the onboard fire suppression system.
- A fire started in the engine bay of a Komatsu 930SE dump truck when a fuel injector punched through the rocker cover. Engine oil and diesel vapour contacted the hot turbo and exhaust. The operator activated the onboard fire suppression system.
- The presence of oil on the turbo of a Cat 854G dozer resulted in a small fire. The operator used a hand held fire extinguisher to put the fire out.
- Grinding sparks ignited acetylene leaking from the end of an acetylene hose reel assembly in a workshop.

Electrical (14)

- A contractor was connecting the batteries of a 20kVA Uninterrupted Power Supply unit when two of the cables made contact resulting in an arc flash. The energy in the fault caused the lug on one of the cables to burn off.
- An open arc occurred when the adaptor on a dragline substation broke while the cable tractor was manoeuvring the dragline trailing cable.
- A worker received an electric shock when he went to remove a float switch from a sump. The float switch operated on 240 V and was protected by a 30mA RCD which did not trip. The cable was found to be faulty.
- A boilermaker received an electric shock while he was removing a wire feeder welder earth electrode. The boilermaker's gloves were wet and the main earth electrode on the welder hadn't been attached to the job.
- A loader operator in an underground mine damaged an energised 6.6kV cable when he raised the loader bucket. Power tripped off at the surface substation.

Other (8)

- An exploration drill hole on a coal mine lease was drilled over depth and intersected old mine workings.
- Workers were evacuated from an underground metal mine when the generator supplying power to the primary vent fans caught fire.
- A contract worker was bitten by a snake on his leg while using a whipper snipper.

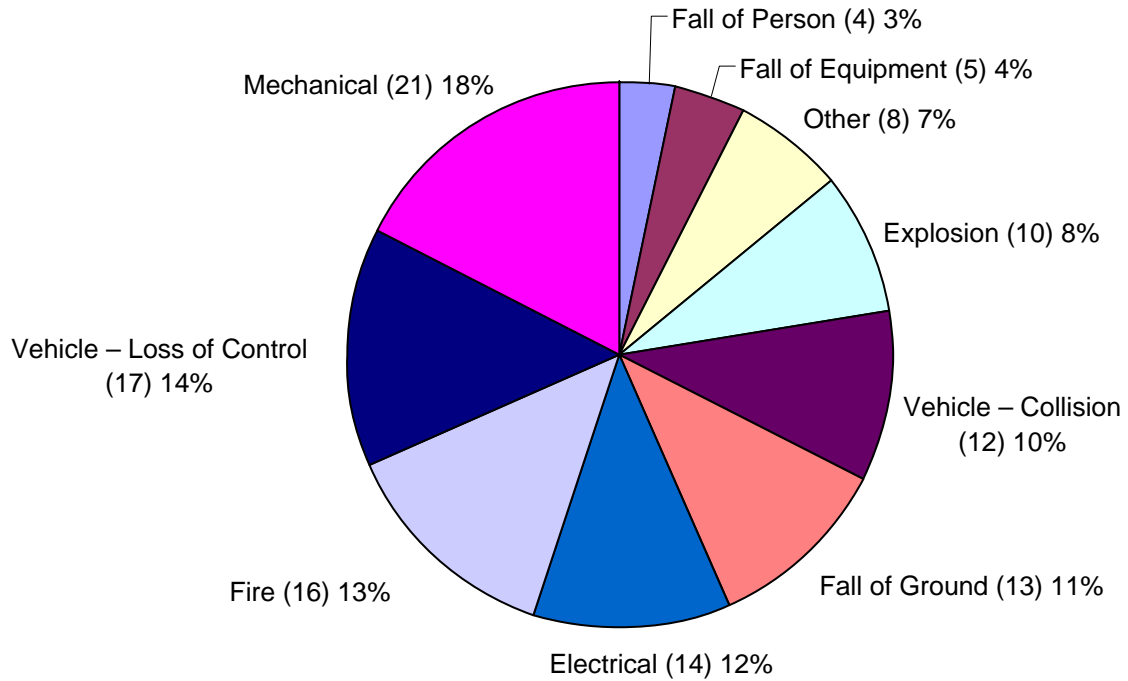


Figure 1: September 2010 Incidents (total 120) by Category

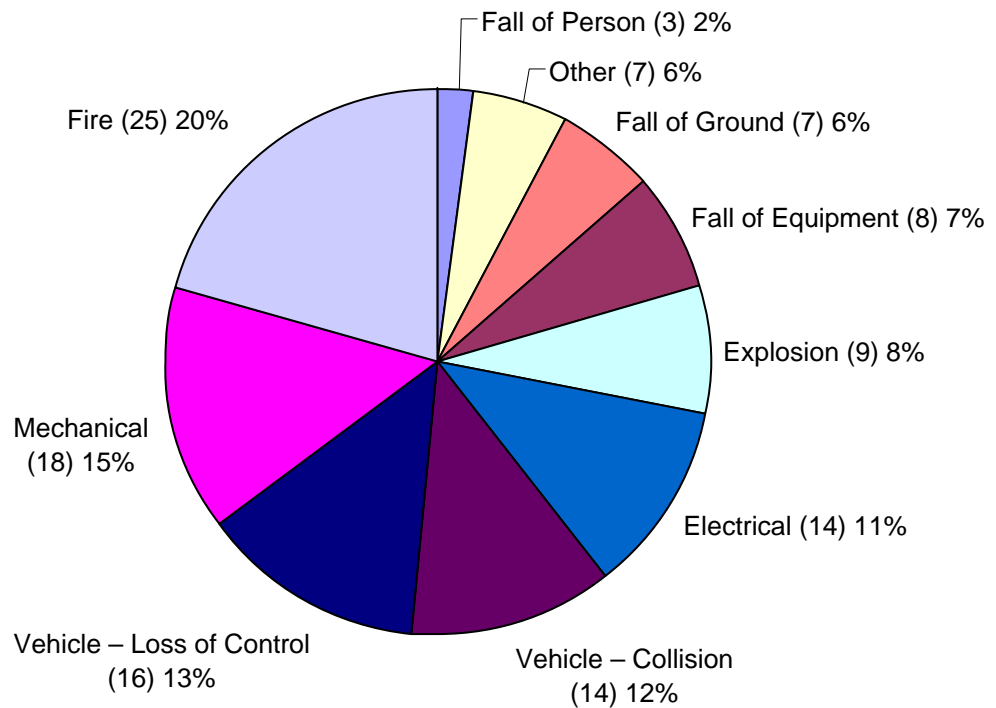


Figure 2: Twelve Month Rolling Average (120 incidents/month) by Category