

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for February 2010

Gravity – Fall of Person (5)

- A worker was walking along a bench when he slipped on a rock and fell fracturing his tibia.
- An operator was standing in the back of a ute tightening bolts on a mobile crusher when he fell to the ground breaking his collarbone.

Gravity – Fall of Equipment (4)

- A Cat 793 rear dump truck reversed through the bund on a dump face and went down the batter ending up at the bottom of the dump on its roof.
- A drill sub, bit and reamer broke from the drill string on an overburden drill rig falling ten metres to the deck where it bounced through the operator's cab window.

Gravity – Rockfall (6)

- Following rain some overhanging rocks fell onto a ramp.
- A 20 metre long section of highwall failed.
- A large lump of coal fell out of the rib while bolting activities were occurring.
- A large rock fell from the wall of an access drive.

Mechanical (18)

- A rock, picked up by the rear wheels of a Cat 789 rear dump truck while the tray was still elevated, was propelled through the rear window of the driver's cabin striking the driver's seat.
- When a filtrate pump in a coal prep plant failed catastrophically parts of the pump housing and impellor were thrown twenty metres.
- When a ball valve on a compressor failed the ball was propelled eight metres.
- A dogman lost his balance and fell against a handrail after he was hit by the end of a four metre length of poly pipe which was being lifted by a Franna crane to the top floor of a coal prep plant.
- While disconnecting load slings from a jib attached to forklift tynes the jib detached unexpectedly and struck the worker.
- A faulty pilot valve caused the boom on a shuttle car to lift without operator control.
- Workers failed to isolate a crusher before attempting to dislodge rocks which were bridged in the jaw.
- While drilling an angled uphole an unplanned breakthrough occurred into an adjacent level.

Mechanical – Vehicle Collision (14)

- While reversing into position beside a shovel a rear dump truck collided with a dozer that was cleaning up.
- An Eimco collided with a parked personnel transporter due to the operator's vision being obscured by the basket attachment which was in a slightly raised position.
- A Cat Tiger dozer reversed over a lighting plant.
- A rear dump truck stood up on its tailgate while pulling away from an excavator during ramp construction.

Mechanical – vehicle loss of control (16)

- A worker was struck on the right foot by the tyne of a forklift which rolled away from its parked position. He sustained a deep gash across the top of his foot.
- An operator of a Getman charge car sustained minor injuries when he tried to get out of the vehicle as it started rolling down a decline.
- Shortly after heavy rain a Komatsu 730E dump truck going down a ramp slid into one coming up the ramp.
- A rear dump truck slid into a bund at the bottom of a ramp that had recently been watered.

Explosion (15)

- While pushing a road over blasted ground a dozer operator has breached a blast exclusion zone.
- The conductors of a 1kV cable were exposed when the cable was pushed against a rockbolt by a basket attachment on an Eimco.
- A worker used oxy acetylene to remove a wheel nut while the tyre was still inflated on the rim.

Thermal Fire (20)

- While electricians were fixing an over current fault on a P&H 4100 shovel a fire started beneath the floor plates in the armature cables where the insulation had worn through.
- A small fire started in the brake on the front drive axle of a Mack road train.
- When a battery lead came into contact with the tail shaft of a coal hauler it shorted causing a small fire beneath the cab.
- A small fire started on a Cat 16G grader after a wiring harness failed.
- A turbo failure on a Hitachi AH500 articulated rear dump truck caused a fire in the exhaust manifold.

Electrical (20)

- While moving a live 6.6kV trailing cable, using a cable tractor, the cable was pinched by the cable reels. It failed and arced, tripping the protection devices. The tractor was isolated for 24 hours because of the tyre fire risk.
- A worker received an electric shock while using a grinder.
- A worker received an electric shock when he touched welder frame.
- A worker opened an electrical switch board and escutcheon panel to re-set an overload on a pug mill.
- A worker was removing some lift chains attached to the fully extended boom of a 220 tonne hydraulic crane when he received an electric shock as a result of a lightning strike about 6km away.

Other (10)

- A boilermaker, who was cutting and welding in an underground shaft loading station, passed out as a result of severe dehydration.