

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for April 2010

Fall of Person (2)

- An electrician climbed over a handrail onto a shed roof to retrieve a screwdriver. His foot went through the corroded roof.

Fall of Equipment (9)

- A boilermaker was gouging a worn tub plate on a dragline when the plate's retaining welds let go. The plate fell two metres and struck another boilermaker working on an adjacent wear plate. He sustained a contusion to his lower leg.
- An argon gas bottle fell off a contractor's truck as the truck was turning. The top of the bottle snapped off releasing the gas.
- A crane was stopped suddenly as it was lifting a pallet of mill liners causing the load to swing. This resulted in a number of liners coming loose and falling eleven metres onto pipes and other equipment.
- A Cat 777 dump truck was backing up to the tip head on a waste dump when it went through the bund, over the edge and rolled on its side.
- A 26 tonne Hitachi excavator was travelling between opal leases on a well used track when the ground gave way into old workings causing the excavator to lean on its side.

Fall of Ground (12)

- A high wall failure occurred above a ramp due to a fault in the high wall.
- Approximately 40,000 tonne of sand fell from a side batter of a dredge pond generating a large bow wave which overturned pontoons on the float line.

Mechanical (12)

- A driller's offside had the end of his ring finger crushed when he passed his hand through the side opening of a set of gripper jaws to clear away some coal at the same time as the driller closed the jaws.
- A worker was removing a section of a longwall monorail and had isolated the energy sources apart from compressed air, which he needed to complete the task. He was struck on the hand and forearm when he mistakenly detached the air hose instead of the hydraulic hose.
- A tyre blew on a Cat 797B dump truck flicking rock fragments up which struck the window of a dozer causing the glass to crack.
- A fault in a remote control pendant which was being used to start the hydraulic pumps on a Magatar continuous haulage system caused the haulage system to tram forward without the controls being activated.
- A 1.5 tonne horizontal pull-lift was attached to an anchoring structure with a fabric sling. While taking up the load the sling was cut in two by a sharp edge on the structure resulting in the hook and chain catapulting past the operator's head with the hook just grazing his ear and head.

- An operator was clearing a blockage of wet dust build up in a chute when his fingers contacted the rotating rotary valve causing amputation of two finger tips.

Vehicle – Collision (11)

- A plough on a coal prep plant raw coal stacker collided with the light vehicle belonging to a technician who was using the local controls to relocate the stacker.
- A loaded Cat 789 dump truck was travelling through a one way section of a haul circuit when it made contact with the off-side of an empty Cat 789 dump truck which was stopped at give way sign.
- A light vehicle parked behind a Komatsu WA 900 loader after the two operators had communicated. The loader then reversed into the driver's side of the light vehicle despite the light vehicle operator's attempts to move out of the way.
- A Komatsu WA 500 loader reversed into a light vehicle which had been left parked in a quarry excavation while the driver conducted an inspection.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (12)

- A loaded Komatsu 830E dump truck crested a hill at approximately 40 kph. The operator applied the retarder but the truck picked up speed. It reached 67 kph before the operator applied the service brake, the heat from which caused a wheel motor cover to catch fire.
- A loader and personnel carrier collided at an underground intersection.
- A parked light vehicle rolled away after the driver left it without setting the handbrake.
- A parked contract driller's Hino service truck rolled away nine metres after the driver left the truck without applying the park brake and chocking the wheels.
- A Cat 793 dump truck was used to tow another Cat 793 to the workshop. The rear truck ran into the lead truck when the lead truck slowed to turn onto a haul road. The rear truck had lost braking capacity.
- A Cat IT28 forklift was found blocking a decline after it rolled from where it was parked.

Explosion (12)

- An IT 14G stemming loader ran over two 400g boosters as it reversed between two rows of drill holes on a shot.
- A 12 volt pump battery on a diesel fuel trailer exploded while being recharged in a workshop.
- After a 185kW compressor tripped and then failed to restart the distribution board exploded blowing the door off.
- A development drill jumbo operator was drilling a back hole when he heard a popping sound. He found that he had intersected a misfired hole which contained the remains of a detonator.
- A charged development heading initiated during the logging in phase of an underground metal mine production blast.

Fire (22)

- Following repair of an oil leak on an exploration drill rig the oil impregnated lagging on the exhaust pipe caught alight.
- A hydraulic O-ring split on an overburden drill rig spraying oil onto the exhaust where it ignited.
- A fire in the engine bay of a Terex 340 excavator was extinguished by mines rescue personnel after the on-board fire suppression failed to extinguish it.
- An air compressor in a gold room caught fire after the operator heard a small explosion.
- A fire on an Elphinstone loader in an underground metal mine could not be extinguished. The mine was initially evacuated and the loader left to burn.

Electrical (11)

- An arcing flash occurred on a 6.6kV switchboard due to a snake entering the board and causing an earth fault.
- A flashover occurred in a pump starter after a circuit breaker was replaced.

- During testing of a longwall isolator HV circuit an electrician received an electric shock when his hand brushed a conductor which had not had sufficient time to be discharged after being charged by the insulation testing device.
- Personnel carried out work on a conveyor after attaching the lockout scissor and personal locks to the conveyor isolation handle which they had locked in the energised position.
- An electrician received an electric shock from a redundant cable in a coal prep plant switchroom.

Other (6)

- A grader operator was scalded by coolant when he removed a radiator cap.
- An operator was scalded on his arm when the radiator cap on a Komatsu 785 water truck, which had been leaking, blew off when he stood on the cap to check it was secure.
- A post blast fume event in a coal open cut breached the blast exclusion zone.

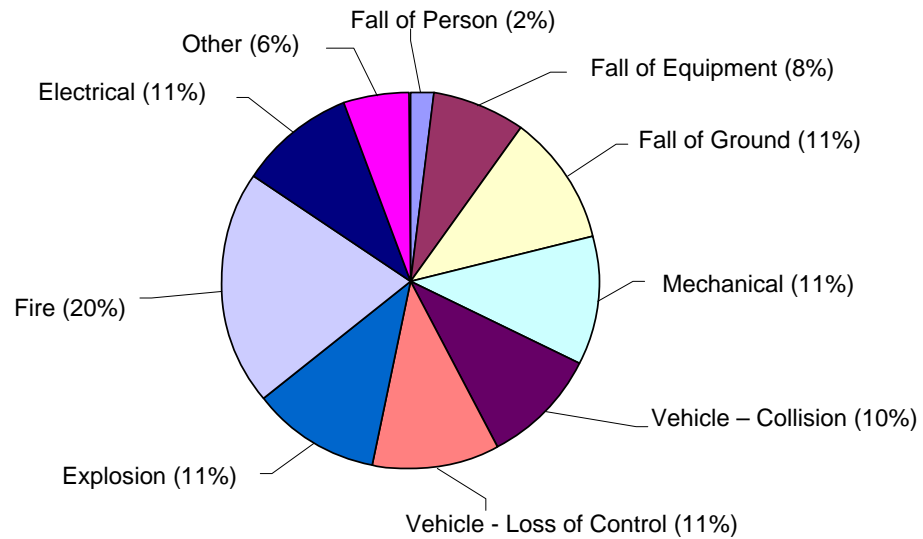


Figure 1. April 2010 Incidents (total 109) by Category

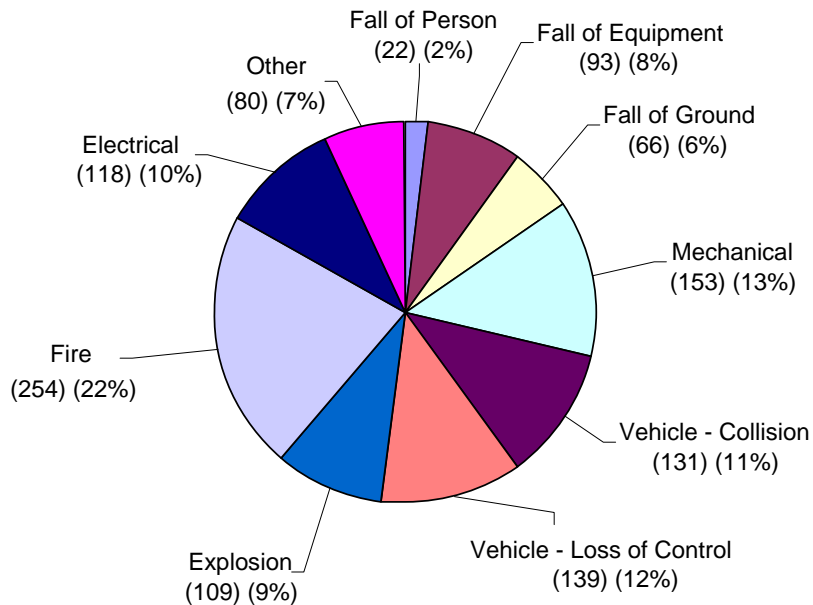


Figure 2 YTD 2009/2010 Incidents (total 1165) by Category