

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for August 2010

Fall of Person (2)

- A worker slipped and fell while walking up a steep incline, fracturing his collarbone.

Fall of Equipment (7)

- A plank fell while scaffolding was being dismantled after a process plant shutdown. It hit part of the plant structure and fell outside the cordoned off drop zone.
- All but one of 24 retaining bolts had been removed from the bottom retaining plate holding a fairlead rope sheave pin in place on a dragline. Subsequently the remaining bolt failed resulting in the retaining plate and the 4.5 tonne pin falling seven metres to the ground.
- A 1.2 tonne armature from a Komatsu 830E dump truck fell to the ground while being lifted by a Franna crane and forklift.

Fall of Ground (6)

- A wedge failure in a highwall resulted in a rockfall of approximately 350,000 tonnes.
- A Cat D10 dozer was cleaning material off the toe of a dragline highwall when the material directly adjacent to the blade dislodged from the wall. Rock impacted on the handrail and bonnet of the dozer.
- A wedge failure from a dragline highwall occurred as a Cat D11 dozer approached the toe to resume ripping. Shortly before, the dragline had cleaned the wall after the dozer operator had ceased ripping and retreated from the toe after noticing some rocks falling.
- A twenty metre long and five metre deep section of roof fell from a heading in a coal mine.
- A miner was digging lifters at a development face in a metal mine when a rock measuring approximately 30cmx30cmx15cm fell from the face striking him on the foot.

Mechanical (18)

- When a shuttle car operator started the pump to reel in excess cable the boom started to lift without the lever being activated.
- A sleeve was being pushed out of a housing when a spacer that had been inserted to take up the slack in the 50 tonne jacking equipment was ejected under force. It landed approximately 50 metres away.

- A fitter was struck in the left eye by a slither of rock which ejected from the tracks of a mobile crusher while it was being trammed.
- The operator on a continuous miner bolting rig was inserting a rockbolt in a hole when it jammed. It bent and flicked back hitting the operator.
- A maintenance worker was setting leg stages on a longwall roof support when he was hit on the back of the hand by high pressure fluid. He was taken to hospital to be assessed for possible fluid injection.
- A rock fell out of the tray of a Cat 789 dump truck while tipping a load of overburden and struck a dozer which was nearby. It bounced onto the hand rail and smashed into a cabin window.
- A concentrator worker used his hand to steady a load of grinding media he was lifting with an overhead crane. The load swung and trapped his hand against a handrail.

Vehicle – Collision (19)

- A Cat 793 dump truck had moved forward at an intersection before seeing an approaching Cat 785 dump truck. Both trucks had to brake heavily to avoid a collision.
- A water cart waited at stop sign for two floats to pass and then came out onto haul road. A light vehicle following the floats had to do 180 degree turn at speed to avoid a collision.
- A Cat 16G grader was trimming the centre of a ramp entrance when a Komatsu 830E haul truck almost collided with it as the truck returned from the pit. The truck stopped about one metre from the front of the grader.
- A Komatsu 730E dump truck drove down a ramp on the wrong side of the ramp centre divider as a Cat 773 water cart was travelling up the ramp.
- On night shift a Cat D11 dozer reversed into a light vehicle parked behind a banded lighting plant on a waste dump.
- A light vehicle reversing on a dump side-swiped a troop carrier which was parked behind.
- As a PJB personnel carrier drove out of the mine portal the operator was blinded by the sun and collided with a parked Eimco loader.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (17)

- A light vehicle carrying four workers rolled on a recently watered haulroad. One of the passengers was thrown from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.
- On dayshift the driver of a Cat 789 dump truck fell asleep while driving. The truck veered onto the safety bund on the driver's side of the ramp.

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

- A dump truck operator fell asleep while being loaded and rolled away about 50 metres before the driver woke up.
- A light vehicle operator lost control of his vehicle after having a micro sleep. He woke up when the vehicle mounted a grader windrow on the side of the haul road.
- After it had been raining a Cat 797 dump truck slid across the road as it exited a ramp.
- The operator of an empty Cat 789 dump truck lost control of the truck on a right hand bend of an access ramp which had recently been watered. The truck slid about 20 metres into a windrow.
- A Cat 785C dump truck was travelling empty down a ramp that had just been watered when it lost traction. The operator applied the brakes and came to a stop at 90 degrees to the direction of travel. A Cat 16M grader that was following had to take evasive action but ended up contacting a tyre on the truck with one of its rippers.
- Following light rain a Cat 785 dump truck was coming down a ramp when the rear end began to slide as it rounded a switch back. The truck slid in reverse down the ramp for about 90 metres. Another truck coming up the ramp had to reverse down the ramp to avoid a collision.

Explosion (10)

- During preparation of a shot for initiation a light vehicle drove over the lead line.
- On nightshift an excavator was trammed through a shot that was being slept overnight. Despite supervision and a spotter being used contact was made with three downlines, two of which were cut.
- A bystander was struck by shrapnel from the initiation of a lead in line bunch block at the shot firing point. He sustained a cut cheek.
- A flameproof cover on the motor of a continuous miner was found to be damaged during an investigation of earth leakage trips on the motor.

Fire (22)

- A Cat 777F water cart operator noticed smoke and flame coming from under the bonnet. He activated the fire suppression and then opened the bonnet. The flames reappeared. So he used a hand held extinguisher to put it out.
- The operator of a Drill Trek DK 75 drill rig noticed sparks coming from engine area and found a small fire around the starter motor.
- A fire started on a drill rig after oil from a ruptured hose contacted the turbo.
- Workers in an underground coal mine found coal smouldering below a collapsed bottom roller on a conveyor after detecting a burning smell and smoke coming from a heading.
- A small fire started in the wiring of a starter motor on a bobcat which was on a shot cleaning up between rows prior to the loading of holes.

- A small fire started on a Cat R1500 loader being operated remotely after transmission oil dripped onto the turbo. The fire extinguished when the operator shut the machine down.
- The operator of a Gardner-Denver drill rig was parking the rig when a fire ball erupted from the engine area. The operator activated the onboard fire suppression.

Electrical (11)

- A fitter placed a steel cage housing a compressor onto a live electrical lead, which cut the lead. The fitter touched the cage and received an electric shock.
- An attempt was made in a process plant to re-energise a redundant power cable that had been cut in half. The electrical protection operated to remove the power.
- An electrician received an electric shock from a pump connector while fault finding. The connector and pump were both wet due to rain.
- A chef working in a mine camp kitchen sustained an electric shock while using a blender.

Other (5)

- While cutting scrap steel a worker burnt his leg when he dropped the cutting torch.
- A supervisor restoring an acid pump after isolation received an acid burn to his left arm and cheek when splashed by acid from an adjacent pump.
- Fumes from a surface coal mine shot breached the exclusion zone.

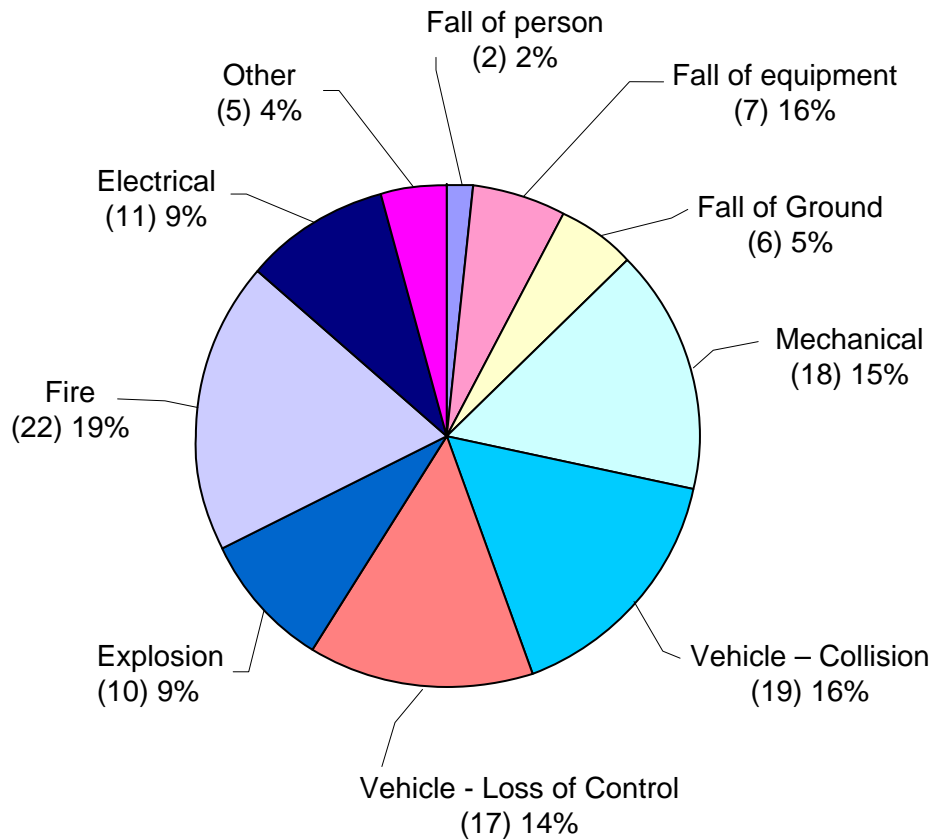


Figure 1: August 2010 Incidents (total 117) by Category

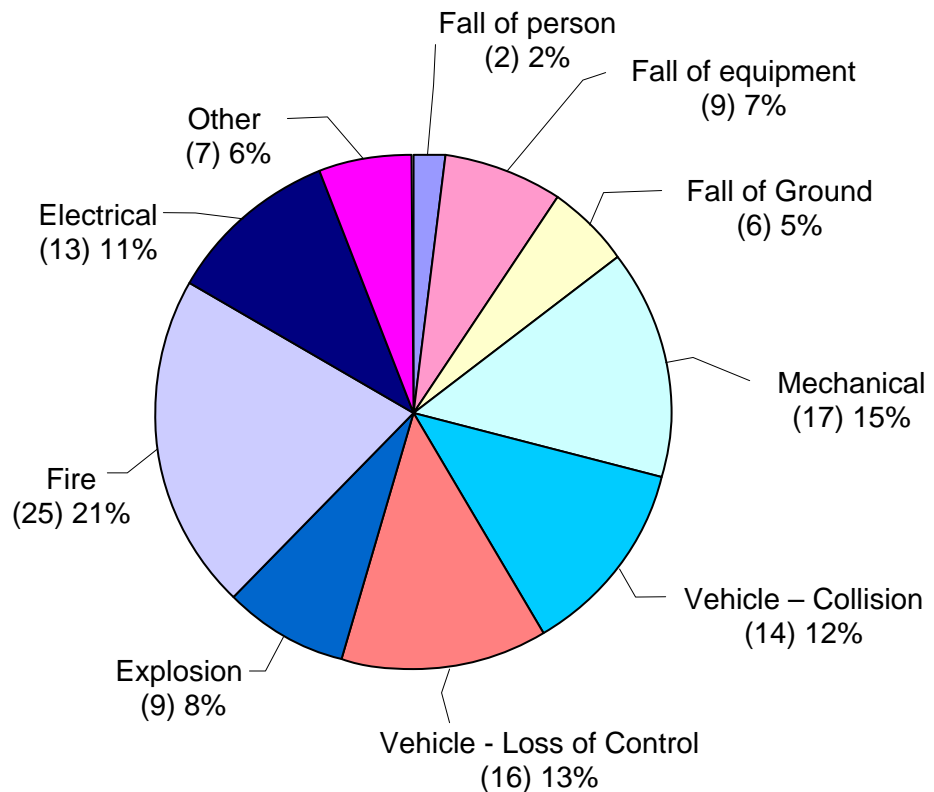


Figure 2: Twelve Month Rolling Average (118 incidents/month) by Category