

# Serious accidents and high potential incidents

## Mining and quarrying

### Compilation of reports for June 2010

#### Fall of Person (3)

- While pressurising a vent bag a serviceman fell about 2.5 metres from an elevated work platform due to the flapping end of the bag pushing him over. He sustained fractures to his left hand wrist and left foot.

#### Fall of Equipment (9)

- While pulling the casing on an exploration drill rig the pull down chain on the mast snapped and fell to the ground.
- While pulling rods on an exploration drill rig, the drill stem stabiliser and bit fell to the ground after the plug attaching the string to the winch line detached.
- While re-setting the drag limit on a dragline the bucket was hoisted and pulled into the hoist sheaves. The hoist ropes snapped and the bucket fell to the ground.
- A water cart was watering a tailings dam wall lift when the side of the wall gave way and the truck rolled over.
- A Komatsu 475 dozer toppled off the float being used to transport it.
- A Cat 330DL excavator slipped off a narrow coal bench and came to rest on its side.

#### Fall of Ground (10)

- A section of unsupported roof fell and hit a bolting operator who was standing under the supported roof adjacent to the road header. He sustained lacerations to the back of his head.
- A miner was struck in the middle of his back by a piece of coal that was flicked off the maingate shearer drum.
- A miner was barring down a wall in an underground drive when a 100kg rock slabbed off and rolled onto his foot. The impact broke a bone in his foot.
- A rock fell 15metres from a ROM stockpile and struck the rear passenger door of a parked light vehicle, smashing the window and damaging the door.

#### Mechanical (22)

- Two employees were working in a trench under a dragline tub replacing wear plates on the tub when they were struck by the hydraulic jack they were using. They sustained bruising and lacerations.
- An apprentice was assisting in the adjustment of the discharge opening of a mobile jaw crusher. He was unscrewing the retaining nut on the drawback tension rod and spring assembly when the rod failed catastrophically causing the components to fly out with force. They struck him on the shoulder causing severe bruising and soft tissue injury.
- A fitter was removing a hydraulic hose from a longwall maingate pump valve block when oil at 50 bar pressure squirted onto his face. He was taken to hospital for treatment for suspected fluid injection injury to his eyes.
- An acid plant operator was sprayed in the face with 98% sulphuric acid when he disconnected a line which was under pressure. He sustained burns to his face.
- A fitter was using a hammer to assist in replacing a taper lock bearing roller pin when a slither of metal came off the inner race and entered his groin.

- A development drill jumbo offsider's hand was crushed between a reamer bit and the drill steel centraliser. After attaching the bit to the drill steel the offsider decided to check that the bit was tight just as the operator closed the centraliser.
- During maintenance in a workshop on a Komatsu 830E dump truck the steer wheels were turned. This caused the 5 kg wheel chock to be flung from below one of the tyres five metres across the workshop. It struck the FOPS on a forklift and ended up behind the operator's seat.
- The operator of a Volvo L90 loader was moving a tailings pipe into position. When the loader articulated the pipe came into contact with the supervisor's light vehicle and a worker who was standing beside the vehicle.
- A fitter had part of a finger amputated when it was caught between a lifting chain and an oil tank that was being lifted into position.
- A light vehicle was driving through water in an underground mine when a drill steel was flicked up by the driver's side front wheel and penetrated the floor.

#### Vehicle – Collision (18)

- While reversing for loading at the face a Komatsu 830E dump truck made contact with the Leibherr 996 face shovel.
- Two Hitachi 90 tonne dump trucks collided on a ROM pad after one of the operators suffered a suspected stroke.
- A Cat 773 dump truck operator had to take evasive action to avoid a collision when he rounded a corner and unexpectedly found a Cat D9 dozer in his path.
- While backing away from a cleanup push on a waste dump a Cat Tiger dozer collided with a Cat 789 dump truck.
- A shuttle car operator crushed his hand and a fitter standing next to the shuttle car sustained a fractured pelvis when the shuttle car cabin came into contact with the rib line in an underground coal mine.

#### Vehicle – Loss of Control (14)

- The operator of a CAT 793 dump truck had a micro-sleep whilst operating the truck on the first shift of a new roster. He woke up before he hit the bund.
- The driver of a light vehicle parked in the main decline and got out to check the load. The vehicle rolled forward, climbed up the wall of the decline and tipped onto its side.
- An explosives MMU lost the left hand rear bogie drive wheel as it was travelling on a mine road.

#### Explosion (9)

- A Cat D11 dozer breached a loaded shot exclusion zone while pushing material.
- A technical assistant picked up a bottle containing picric acid in a laboratory. He didn't know whether the picric acid was still liquid or had dried out to its explosive solid state.
- Hot work was performed on an explosives charge car while the charging kettle still contained Anfo.

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

**Fire (27)**

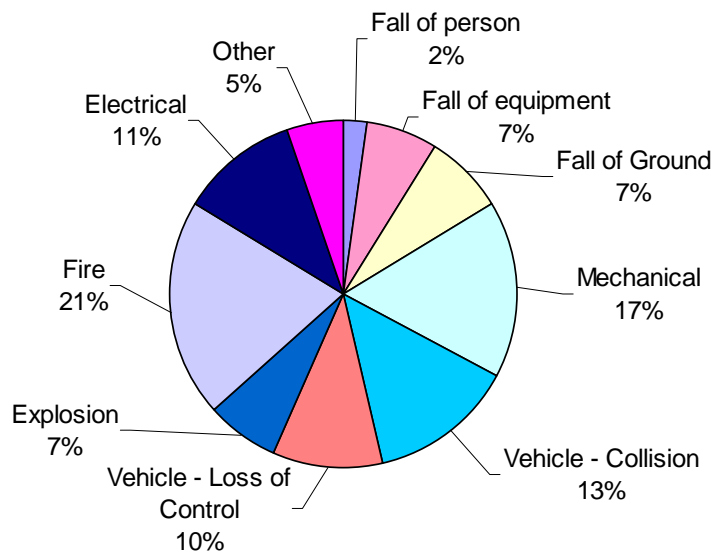
- Oil and dust which had accumulated on the exhaust manifold of a Terex RH340B truck during maintenance ignited when the truck was started.
- The operator of Cat D11 dozer was unable to get the on-board fire suppression system to work after a fire started in the engine bay. He used a hand held extinguisher to put it out.
- A fire started in the engine bay of a Hitachi EX2500 excavator after a turbo oil supply line ruptured and sprayed oil onto and past the heat shield.
- Smouldering coal was found behind a longwall conveyor boot end at the start of shift.
- A small fire started in the front right wheel hub of a Tamrock drill jumbo as it was trammung up a decline.
- A worker received burns to his torso when flames emitted from the blade circle drawbar tube of a Cat 24H grader while he was using oxy/acetylene to heat up a broken retaining bolt on the blade circle retainer.

**Electrical (15)**

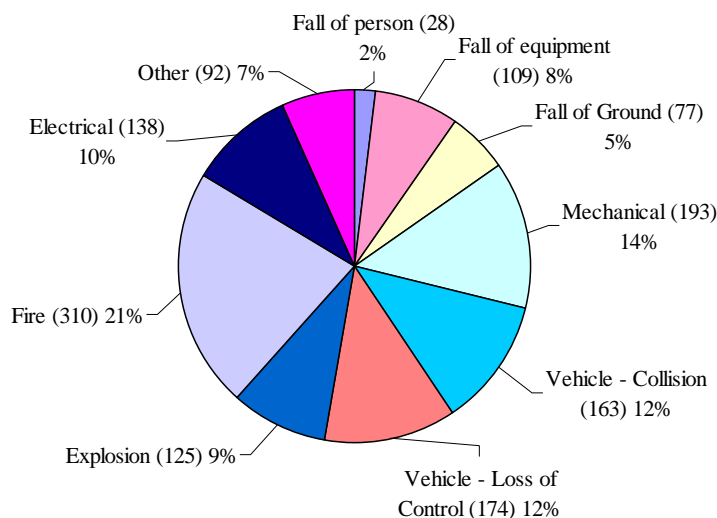
- An underground worker received a static shock while rolling out the charging hose from an explosives pump truck.
- A rat entered a high voltage cubicle causing an electrical fault and an explosion.
- A drill rig with its mast raised was being trammed under an 11kV overhead power line. The proximity of the mast to the power line drew an arc and energised the machine. Power did not trip.
- A long boom excavator contacted overhead 11kV power lines. Power tripped three times before latching off.

**Other (7)**

- There was an unplanned breakthrough of a development heading into a filled stope.
- An overburden blast produced a nitrogen dioxide fume cloud which drifted toward a blast guard forcing him to retreat.



**Figure 1. June 2010 Incidents (total 134) by Category**



**Figure 2 YTD 2009/2010 Incidents (total 1409) by Category**