

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for May 2010

Fall of Person (3)

- A contract maintenance worker was working from an inadequately fenced process plant work platform six metres above the ground without using fall arrest equipment.

Fall of Equipment (7)

- A Cat D10 dozer trammed off a shovel bench and fell eight metres, landing on the blade.
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- While replacing a flat tyre on a light vehicle the driver placed an air bag under the vehicle to assist in lifting it above the jack height. When he started the engine to inflate the bag the vehicle lurched forward and fell off the jack.
- A five kilogram support bar on a surface drill rig fell eight metres from the mast onto the deck.

Fall of Ground (1)

- As a result of spoil failure at a coal mine, coal was pushed 200 metres from the low wall.

Mechanical (18)

- An Eimco loader slid into the rib in an underground coal mine. While moving the loader off the rib it struck some drill steels which were leaning against the rib. One of the drill steels penetrated the cab and struck the operator on the chest.
- During rockbolting operations on a continuous miner the bolt began to bend as it was pushed into the hole. The operator stopped and retracted the drill pot. As he did so the bolt flicked out of the dolly and struck him on the forearm breaking his wrist.
- While lifting a shipping container with a 50 tonne crane a lifting lug came loose. The lift chains dislodged and hit the front windscreen of the crane.

Vehicle – Collision (14)

- A service truck reversed into a light vehicle which was parked behind it.
- The operator of a Reed overburden drill reversed into his own light vehicle while positioning the drill.
- On nightshift an underground loader carrying stowage collided with another loader which was parked across the main access road on the surface.
- A Cat D11R dozer reversed into the rear tyre of a Cat 793 dump truck. The truck was waiting to reverse on the dump. There was no positive communication between the operators.
- A Cat D11 dozer reversed into a lighting plant while a fitter was testing the plant.
- A Cat 950 loader backed into a dump truck travelling through the stockpile area.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (21)

- A dump truck hit a berm after the driver had a micro sleep.

- In wet conditions a light vehicle skidded through a stop sign at an intersection and into the path of a water cart which had to take evasive action to avoid a collision.
- A Cat 789C dump truck slid and spun 180 degrees on a wet ramp and came to rest on a berm.
- The prime mover and lead trailer of a Kenworth C501 road train water truck rolled onto their sides as the truck turned a corner.
- On nightshift a rear dump truck slid for 100metres on a recently watered ramp before coming to rest against a berm at the bottom of the ramp.
- A light vehicle travelling down a ramp swerved to avoid a kangaroo and ran into a berm.
- A 20 tonne Franna crane was going down an in-pit ramp when the brakes failed. The driver was able to steer the crane down the remainder of the ramp and into the pit where it stopped.
- A light vehicle with two occupants rolled onto its side as it travelled down a recently watered ramp. One of the occupants sustained a broken collar bone.
- A Komatsu 930E dump truck lost propulsion on a dump ramp. When the driver got out to isolate the truck it rolled back down the ramp before coming to rest against a berm.
- A grader stalled while going up a ramp and started to roll back. The driver jumped clear when he was unable to stop it. After rolling 30 metres the grader struck the pit wall and stopped.

Explosion (7)

- A fire extinguisher on a dozer exploded.
- A shuttle car trailing cable jammed between the cable reeler and the frame of the car causing an arc.
- During drilling a development face a lifter hole was drilled within 500mm of a misfired hole containing a primer and the remains of a Nonel detonator.
- While an explosives MMU was on a shot its batteries failed. They were replaced with a different style of battery which resulted in the battery box cover contacting the terminals. This shorted the batteries causing a fire which was extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher. A one kilometre exclusion zone was put in place until the truck was considered safe.

Fire (29)

- A fire in the engine bay of a Cat 793D dump truck was extinguished by the on-board fire suppression system.
- A small fire developed on the tyre of a rear dump truck while operating in an area of a coal open pit where spontaneous combustion was occurring. The truck was parked up in a safe location for 24 hours for the tyre to cool.
- While welding on a D11R dozer some hot slag dropped onto a wiring harness. When the dozer was started it shorted to earth causing a small fire.
- A small fire occurred in a dragline hoist gearbox when the heat from a collapsed bearing ignited some grease.
- The O ring on the oil feed line to one of the turbos on a Terex RH170 excavator failed resulting in oil leaking onto the turbo causing a small fire.

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

- An acetylene cylinder caught fire in a workshop while a worker was using an angle grinder nearby. The fire was extinguished and the workshop evacuated for one hour until the cylinder was deemed safe to remove.
- The turbo bearing on an IT forklift collapsed, spraying oil onto the heat insulation between the turbo and exhaust pipe which caught fire.
- When degreaser was splashed onto the engine of an Elphinstone 1700 loader in an underground service bay a fire started which required use of a portable fire extinguisher and the on-board fire suppression to put it out.
- A boilermaker was using an oxy/acetylene torch when one of the hoses caught alight and blew off the fittings creating a fireball that got in under the boilermaker's faceshield resulting in superficial burns to his face.

- A boilermaker was welding in a confined space on an apron feeder. The electrode touched his chest and he received an electric shock. He was taken to hospital for an ECG and kept overnight for observation.
- An exploration drill rig with its mast upright fitted with an extension cut live 440V overhead powerlines while tramping a short distance to a workshop.

Other (5)

- Employees were withdrawn from a coal open pit when gas sampling indicated the presence of 4ppm ethylene and 6ppm ethane.
- A shot generated a significant amount of nitrogen dioxide fumes which drifted over a dragline located outside the exclusion zone. The dragline crew switched off the air conditioner as the fume cloud went over. Later they reported headaches and were taken to hospital for a medical assessment.

Electrical (5)

- An 11kV buried cable was almost contacted by a post hole drill while drilling holed near a building.

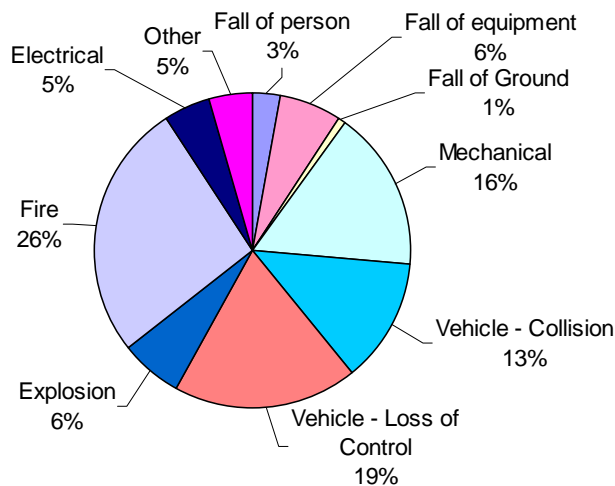


Figure 1. May 2010 Incidents (total 110) by Category

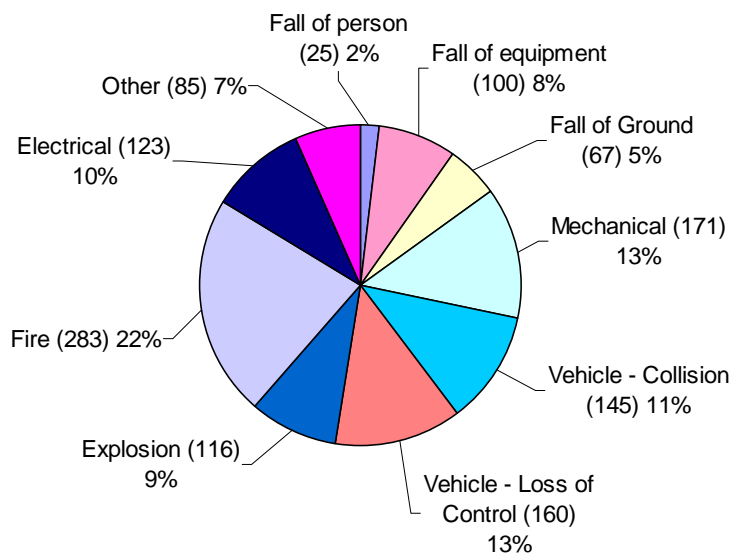


Figure 2 YTD 2009/2010 Incidents (total 1275) by Category