

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for November 2010

Fall of Person (4)

- Three employees had removed a section of roofing from a P&H 4100 shovel house. They put on their safety harnesses and started to work around the opening without attaching themselves to the designated attachment points.
- An employee of an explosives contractor was loading holes within the bench edge exclusion zone. He was wearing a harness and lanyard which was attached to an anchor point when unexpectedly lanyard carabiner detached.

Fall of Equipment (13)

- An excavator rolled onto its side when the pad it was working on subsided.
- A Bobcat 435 track excavator slipped sideways into a gully and fell onto its side while carrying out slashing operations along a seismic line.
- While dumping sand a single chassis tipper trailer rolled onto its side when the tray was raised to the second stage.
- As a Komatsu 830E dump truck reversed up to a dump edge to tip the operator felt the rear of the truck start to sink. He lowered the tray and vacated the truck.
- During a storm a number of sheets of fibreglass cladding detached from the side of a cooling tower.
- A conveyor idler fell 40 metres to the ground while it was being replaced.
- A lighting tower section fell against the crane that was lifting it into position.
- While using a backhoe to move some timber formwork one of the lifting chains detached on one side and the load dropped striking the offside. He sustained abrasions and a fractured collar bone.
- A worker was placing grader control valves onto a shelf in a workshop when it collapsed and jammed the tip of his thumb which later required surgery.

Fall of Ground (5)

- A fall of roof, approximately 40 metres long, 3 metres high and the width of the roadway occurred in the inbye side of a longwall intake.
- A fall of roof 3.5 to 4 metres deep occurred at an intersection that had been previously bolted.
- Approximately 15 tonnes of rock fell from the side of an access drive during an end of shift firing.

Mechanical (27)

- The boom of a dragline moved while workers were next to it in a dog box suspended from a crane.
- An intermediate boom support rope on a dragline detached from the boom end clevis and fell onto the boom access walkway.
- The operator of a Cat D10R dozer was halfway down the access ladder when it started to fold away.
- The door interlock on a PJB personnel transporter was found to have been defeated.
- A driller's offside was struck on the mouth by a section of casing as it was withdrawn under tension from a borehole. He lost two teeth and split his lip.
- An exploration driller was peppered in the face by air and dirt particles under high pressure when he used a screwdriver to unblock a drill bit. He had initially pressurised the drill bit in an attempt to free the blockage.
- While lifting the mast on a Redrill SK60 drill rig back into position both upper tilt ram pins failed. The mast fell back down onto the bed of the drill.
- The lifting chain on an air driven gantry crane failed while lifting a load.
- A 130 tonne crane was lifting a 12 metre long section of an underground escape ladderway when the load swung and hit the crane cabin.
- A worker was standing inside a batch plant feed hopper trying to remove an oversize rock. As he dislodged the rock his leg slipped through the hopper gates as they started to close. His leg was caught between the gates which were still held partially open by the rock.
- A worker lost the tip of his middle finger while closing an underground vent door.
- After levering a stone which was jammed between a set of duals on a trailer the truck driver put his hand in to remove it. As he did so one of the tyres burst. He suffered a compound fracture and dislocation of the middle finger on his left hand.
- An exploration driller's offside was struck on the head by a large diameter dust removal hose which detached from the cyclone when it became unintentionally pressurised.
- The shovel on a continuous miner moved unexpectedly when the roof bolting functions were operated.
- While operating the shear function on a continuous miner the tail unexpectedly lowered and slewed between 100 - 200mm.

Vehicle – Collision (15)

- A Cat 792 loader driver called up the shovel operator for permission to clean up the face. When the shovel operator put the dipper on the ground the loader driver took this as acknowledgement and moved forward. The shovel then swung and caught the loader with the counterweight.
- A driftrunner reversed out of a cut-through and struck an Eimco loader.
- As a Cat 777 dump truck was reversing into position to be loaded by a shovel it backed into a Cat D10 dozer which was cleaning up.
- An underground grader was reversing to give way to an oncoming truck when it collided with a light vehicle parked just off the travelway.
- Two Cat 789 dump trucks were queued waiting for the digger to relocate on the bench. A dozer operator asked the front truck to move back so he could clean-up the floor. The front truck reversed and its tray collided with the handrails in front of the cab of the second truck.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (29)

- As an empty Cat 785 dump truck moved back onto its side of an access road after overtaking a grader the truck slid on the recently watered road and its tray clipped the tail end of a loaded Cat 785 dump truck travelling in the opposite direction.
- A Cat 793 dump truck slid down a ramp and turned through 180 degrees on its first run after operations restarted after rain.
- The operator of a Cat 777 dump truck had a micro sleep while driving down a ramp. The truck veered onto the two metre high berm and travelled along it for about 30 metres before coming back onto the ramp.
- The operator of a Cat AD45B underground ejector truck had a micro sleep as he was travelling up a decline. The truck contacted the wall causing significant damage to the cab.
- A Caterpillar 784C coal hauler was travelling along a haul road when the steering wheel separated from the steering column. The operator was able to stop the truck safely on the haul road.
- A Toyota Coaster bus carrying three passengers along a wet haul road spun out and slid off the road.
- A Cat 730 articulated dump truck had just driven through a puddle of water on the haul road and was entering an inclined bend when the dump body tipped onto its side.
- The operator of a loaded Komatsu 730E dump truck over sped through the retarder as he approached an intersection, lost control and hit the centre traffic island where the truck rolled onto its side.
- An underground Toyota Landcruiser trayback drove up onto a rill of muck overbalanced and rolled onto its side.
- The operator of a Manitou tyre handler forklift lost control of the vehicle while travelling down a decline. He managed to stop the forklift in the access to a level below after travelling approximately 700 metres.

- Two workers were travelling in a Toyota Landcruiser Ute along an access road when the vehicle skidded and rolled onto its roof.
- A light vehicle with two occupants rolled on an exploration track.
- A light vehicle lost steering while travelling along a haul road when the left hand side tie rod detached after the failure of a split pin on the retaining bolt.
- A Le Tourneau L1150 loader was about to tip a load into a dump truck when it tipped forward onto its bucket causing the rear wheels to be raised three metres off the ground.
- A 20 tonne Franna crane was travelling in reverse over sloping ground, while transporting a grizzly weighing 5 tonnes, when it tipped onto its side.

Explosion (10)

- The fuses on the primary side of a transportable sub-station auxiliary transformer (6.6kV to 415V) shorted causing the enclosure door to be blown off its hinges.
- A mobile phone fell into a surface concrete drop borehole hopper and fell down the hole landing in a NERZ area of the mine workings.
- A continuous miner unexpectedly intersected a methane gas drainage hole.
- An ignition of methane occurred when a continuous miner intersected a methane drainage in-seam borehole. The flame self-extinguished shortly after it ignited.
- A 12Volt “maintenance free” battery exploded on a surface generator during a service.
- A Cat 2900 loader which was constructing a bund on the level above a partially charged breakthrough shot struck and damaged a booster which contained a detonator encapsulated in emulsion.

Fire (25)

- Slag from an overhead gouging activity ignited rubbish on a lower floor in a coal prep plant.
- A small fire near the turbo was extinguished in the engine bay of a Cat 994 loader.
- While gouging cracks on the mast of a Reedrill SKS overburden drill slag landed on the protective wrap of the mast wiring loom.
- A fire started on a development drill jumbo after a 12Volt battery exploded.
- An 890kg bag of Sodium Ethyl Xanthate was found burning in a processing plant reagent storage shed.
- A fire was noticed in the engine bay of a Cat AD55 dump truck shortly after it had exited the portal. The AFFF system was initiated and the QFRS attended with two fire trucks.
- A grass fire was started by spontaneous combustion of stockpiled waste material.

Electrical (13)

- A large forklift was being used to relocate a shipping container when the underslung earth wire on a high voltage power line was damaged and subsequently caused a short circuit condition.

- A worker received an electric shock from a 240Volt Kanga jackhammer that was powered from a portable generator.
- A boilermaker received an electric shock while changing welding rods.

- A live cable was dug up during preparation work for a concrete slab to be laid for a plant expansion. The cable had not been detected during examination of the area with a cable tracer.

Other (2)

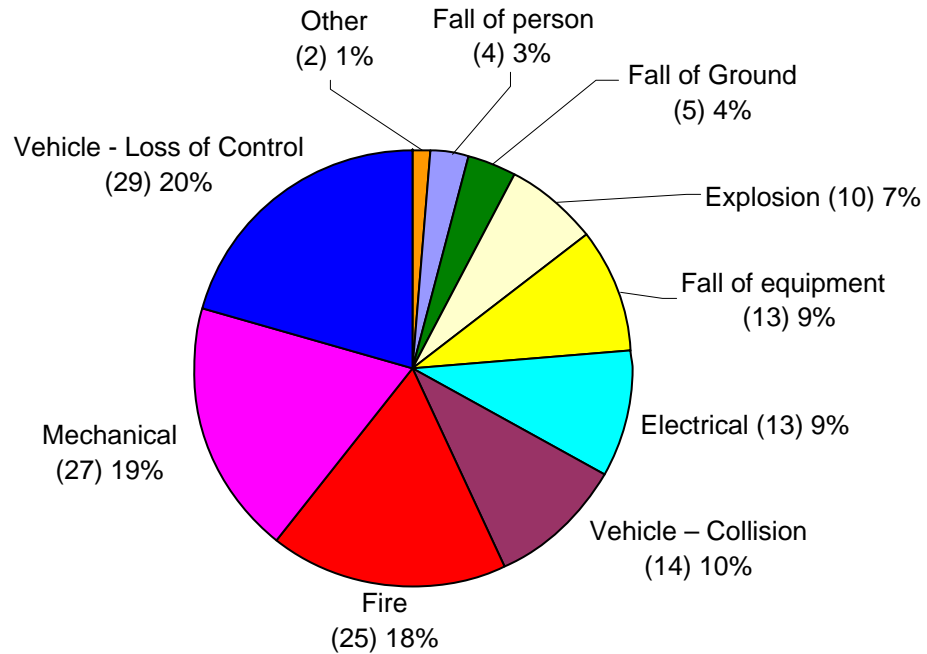


Figure 1: November 2010 Incidents (total 142) by Category

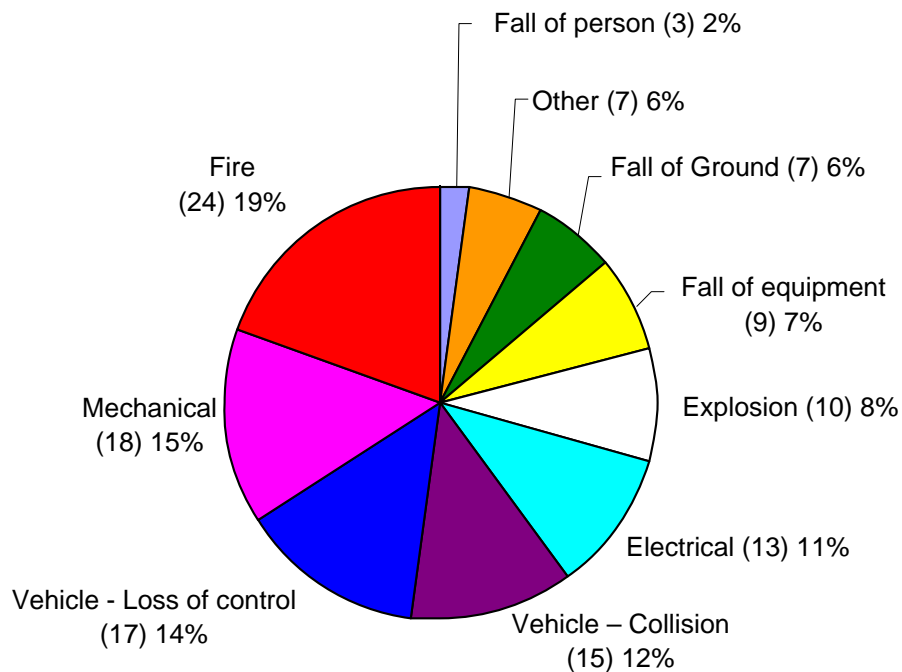


Figure 2: Twelve Month Rolling Average (122 incidents/month) by Category