

**Mines Inspectorate**  
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**Significant incident report 76**  
**Published 22 January 2010**

## Fatality involving a water truck

**Mine Type:** All Surface Mines

**Incident:** In July last year, on a Saturday at approximately 12:50pm, a quarry worker received fatal injuries when the water truck he was operating left a designated roadway and went over an embankment at a quarry.



**Equipment:** Volvo FL7-10 dual steer water truck.

**Hazard:** Heavy vehicle operating on a steep gradient.

**Cause:** Investigations are ongoing.

**Comments:** Prior to the accident the worker was doing his last watering run before finishing work for the day. He had just watered the load-out area below a crushing plant before moving downhill, when he lost control of the truck prior to it leaving the road.

**Recommendations:**

- Mines and quarries should conduct site-wide audits to ensure travel-way design, traffic management procedures and bunding design is suitable for the safe management of traffic on site.
- Site senior executives must ensure that all equipment on site is suitably maintained and serviced, and consideration must be given to OEM requirements and site specific hazards. Keep a record to show equipment is fit for purpose, maintained and serviced. Service and operational manuals for equipment must be available.
- Site senior executives must ensure all workers, including contractors, are competent to perform tasks on site and are competent on the particular equipment being operated. Keep a record to show all workers are competent.

**Rob O'Sullivan**

**Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines, Metalliferous**

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Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Significant incident report. Any such advice supplied to site should reach those who require it, and it should also be placed on the mine notice boards.

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[www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/safety\\_information\\_\\_\\_bulletins.cfm](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/safety_information___bulletins.cfm)