

SAFETY ALERT

DATE: March 2020

Truck tailgate hits worker's head

This safety alert provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

Issue

A worker was hit on the head by the tailgate of a road tipper truck while he was looking for hung up material in the back of a truck body.

Circumstances

The incident occurred about 3pm on 26 February 2020 at a quarry near Glen Innes, NSW.

The driver had tipped the material in the dog trailer and driven the truck forward to clear the tipped load. The driver exited the truck to look for any hung up material in the trailer body.

The driver got back in the truck, tipped the truck body and moved the truck forward, again to clear the load. The driver did not hear the tailgate close.

The driver then exited the truck to check if the truck body was clean.

The driver saw that the tailgate was stuck open on the tipped material and put his head between the tailgate and truck body to check the truck body for hung up material.

At this point, the tailgate released, hitting him on the head.

The driver suffered a mild concussion and was not allowed to drive for 48 hours.

Figure 1 The red arrow shows where the truck driver's head was when it was hit. Note: the tray was in a raised position when the incident occurred.



Investigation

The NSW Resources Regulator conducted a site assessment to obtain information about the incident.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- Mine operators must carry out risk assessments regarding all haulage and dumping activities undertaken onsite. The risk assessments must include inspecting truck bodies for hung up materials and cleaning out truck bodies and drawbars.
- In carrying out risk assessments for haulage and dumping activities, mine operators must implement controls in accordance with the hierarchy of control measures as required in clauses 35 and 36 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.
- Consideration should be given to a latch and lock mechanism designed into the truck body to prevent the tailgate closing if there is a need to access the body via the tailgate.
- Fit-for-purpose access and egress points should be installed on all plant and equipment.
- Mine operators must provide training to all workers (including contractors) about the dangers of working under suspended and unsecured loads.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety alert and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

Go to resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au to:

- find more safety alerts and bulletins
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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