

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for March 2010

Fall of Person (1)

- The operator of a wheel dozer stumbled as he descended the dozer's stairs and fell to the ground. He injured his wrist and fractured a bone in his forearm.

Fall of Equipment (19)

- During a smelter furnace re-brick the access door broke from its hinges and was left suspended from a chain block.
- A Cat 777 dump truck on its way to a dump ran over and straddled a windrow adjacent to a 20 metre drop.
- Two one tonne Kone crane hoists with a spreader bar in between them were lifting steel liners in a processing plant. A chain link on one of the hoists failed causing the load to be transferred to the other hoist.
- A Komatsu WA 470 loader reversed over the edge of a ramp and fell five metres while rolling over twice before landing upright on its wheels. The operator was wearing his seatbelt and sustained only minor injuries.

Fall of Ground (5)

- The presence of oxidised coal in a coal seam contributed to the failure of a section of highwall and adjacent endwall of a coalmine open pit.
- In an underground coal mine a section of coal rib dislodged and fell over the top of the rib protection shield pinning and bruising the leg of the bolter operator.
- The backfill in an old mining shaft adjacent to operating conveyor infrastructure slumped resulting in the formation of a hole twenty metres deep.

Mechanical (14)

- A contractor was isolating a longwall chock when a hydraulic hose parted from its fitting. The hose whipped and hit him on the body and covered him in hydraulic oil.
- An incorrectly positioned diversion valve on a hydraulic pump of a shuttle car resulted in the boom lifting when the hydraulic pump was started.
- The tail of a continuous miner slewed unexpectedly while cutting coal.
- After drilling a down hole in the floor with a hand held drill a worker gripped the drill steel to assist him in lifting the drill. His glove caught in the chuck and was ripped off when he accidentally hit the trigger causing the drill steel to rotate.
- While using a sledge hammer to remove a bucket tooth a splinter from the tooth flew off and embedded itself in the stomach of a worker standing three metres away.

Vehicle – Collision (10)

- A Cat 773 water truck driver overtook a Cat 16H grader without positive communication with the grader driver.
- In wet conditions a light vehicle slid through a stop sign at an intersection and collided with a light vehicle coming through the intersection from the right.
- A Cat 773 water cart entered a stockpile area where a Cat 992D loader was working. The water cart driver called up but did not get any response. The loader

operator drove forward with the bucket raised and collided with the water cart.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (18)

- A Komatsu 830E dump truck slid 60 metres down a ramp into a drain on a wet section of road caused by water leaching onto the ramp from an adjacent dump.
- A Komatsu 930E dump truck was driving up a ramp from the pit when it lost propulsion. The truck rolled back into the bund and onto its side.
- A Moxi haul truck trailer rolled onto its side when the operator rounded a corner in damp conditions after rain.
- The operator of an eight tonne Chamberlain non-slew crane lost control of the crane while carrying a heavy load boom first down a long ramp. The crane rolled onto its side when it ran up onto a bund.

Explosion (14)

- Exposed conductors were observed after a shuttle car jammed its cable against the side of a breaker feeder.
- In an underground metal mine a production drill down hole intersected a development lifter butt containing explosive.
- A stemming loader damaged a number of downlines.

Fire (17)

- An operator sustained a burn to his arm when an oxy hose came loose and caught fire when he lit the torch.
- Sparks from grinding activities fell onto an oxy-acetylene hose and started a fire.
- Oil vented from the breather of an overfilled hydraulic tank onto the exhaust of a Terex RH340 excavator causing a small fire.
- A fire erupted briefly on the turbo of an overburden drill when a hydraulic hose split and sprayed oil onto the radiator fan which further diffused the spray toward the turbo.
- A fire started in the hoist gearbox of a dragline after a bearing collapsed.

Electrical (11)

- A contractor received an electric shock from an electric jack hammer.
- While placing a crucible into a rapid ash oven in a laboratory the technician suffered an electric shock.
- A high voltage flashover occurred within an 11kV terminal enclosure.

Other (14)

- Following a coal open pit blast a fume cloud travelled across employees in the pit.
- Approximately 450 tonnes of fill material entered a decline when a stope shotcrete bulkhead breached.
- While relocating the contents of the laboratory a 2.5 litre bottle of Ammonia exploded.
- A box of Sodium Ethyl Xanthate was found bubbling and producing toxic fumes inside a storage compound.

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