

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for January 2010

Gravity – Fall of Person (1)

- While leaving a crib hut a worker slipped on the top step and fell. His right foot caught between the steps fracturing his ankle.

Gravity – Fall of Equipment (9)

- A Cat D9T drove on the edge of the bench and rolled onto its roof.
- A drill rig fell off a low loader while it was being unloaded.
- An excavator fell off a low loader onto its side while being unloaded.
- A thirty metre high dead tree fell onto the back of an excavator.

Gravity – Rockfall (8)

- Two upper benches of a highwall slumped after a week of rain.
- A section of low wall slumped while operations were in progress nearby.
- An excavator was digging the face and floor when a section of batter failed.
- A twelve metre long by five metre high section of roof fell from a coal development heading.
- As workers were about to charge a development face three tonnes of rock fell from the face burying some of the explosives.
- Overburden material that had been dumped over a quarry face collapsed against the cab of a dozer as it removed material from the toe of the consolidated pile.

Mechanical (11)

- A tyre on a Cat 797 rear dump truck burst and threw up a rock into the window of a passing truck.
- A refuelling pod on a Normet service vehicle detached unexpectedly and slid five metres across the floor when the tray was tilted up.
- A geologist collected a strip sample inbye of the cutter heads of a continuous miner without applying personal isolation.
- Two workers failed to lock out a feed conveyor while changing liner plates in a crusher.

Mechanical – Vehicle Collision (15)

- A Cat 988 loader reversed into a bobcat, which had unexpectedly entered the loader's work area, pushing it back two metres, bursting two tyres and popping the windscreen.
- Two light vehicles collided on the corner of a one way road.
- A light vehicle stopped at, and then drove through a give way sign. When the driver noticed a dump truck about to turn across his path he stopped and reversed out of the way.
- After stopping and giving way, a Cat 785B rear dump truck had to brake heavily as it drove through an intersection when another truck entered from the right.

Mechanical – Vehicle Loss of Control (13)

- A Cat 777 water truck slid into a bund on a wet section of ramp and rolled onto its side.
- The operator of a Cat 793B rear dump truck had a micro-sleep while driving on a divided haul road. The truck ran into a bund at the entrance to a waste dump.
- A parked Franna crane rolled into a light vehicle.
- A 25 tonne Franna non-slew crane was carrying a roll of conveyor belt across an access road when it became unstable and rolled onto its side.

Explosion (10)

- A supervisor fired a development face with a tag still on the in-board.
- During a development firing a sulphide dust explosion occurred which damaged some vent bag.
- A prestart check on a personnel transporter identified that a flameproof alternator cover was missing.

Thermal Fire (32)

- A fire started on a Cat 797 rear dump truck after a burst hydraulic hose sprayed oil onto the turbo.
- Oil sprayed onto the exhaust manifold of an overburden drill rig resulting in a small fire.
- A hole in the fuel line of a Cat D10 dozer allowed fuel to spray onto the turbo causing a small fire.
- A small fire started on a Cat 994 loader when a hydraulic pump came apart and oil sprayed onto the motor.
- When a tail pulley on a conveyor failed the belt moved across and rubbed on steelwork causing a small fire.
- A fitter sustained a burn when sparks from the grinder he was using landed on his shirt which caught fire.

Electrical (17)

- A worker received an electric shock from a GPO in a crib hut while turning on an air conditioner.
- While moving a dragline cable boat the 6.6kV trailing cable was damaged when the incorrect slings attaching the cable loops to the cable boat were disconnected.
- A lighting plant, being towed with its boom still extended, hit a safety wire located beneath a powerline.
- A trades assistant received an electric shock while holding a bracket being welded by a boilermaker.
- While preparing to wash the underbody of a Cat 769D rear dump truck the operator raised the body into an 11kV overhead powerline which tripped the power.
- As a Euclid rear dump truck drove off after dumping its load, the body which was still slightly raised snagged a guy wire supporting an 11kV power pole and pulled the pole over.

Other (7)

- Phosphoric acid spilled onto a boilermaker while working in a storage tank after another worker opened the incorrect spade in a tank above.