



S A F E T Y B U L L E T I N

OPERATING PRACTICE WITH DRILLING JUMBOS IN DEVELOPMENT AND STOPE HEADINGS

THE HAZARD

There is a long history of serious and fatal injuries in the mining industry to persons who were standing or working out in front of drill jumbos when the machine was operating.

The most common occurrences have resulted from falls of rock and persons becoming entangled in rotating drill rods. Injury from movement of the booms has also occurred.

OPERATING PRACTICE AND PRECAUTIONS

It was pointed out in SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 17 (Feb 1991) that no person should be at or near the face with the drill operating.

The jumbo operator works under a protective canopy, and ground support in an operating heading is normally kept within two rounds of the advancing face. Where rock bolting is required, good practice dictates that it be maintained as close to the face as is practicable.

Persons should not approach an operating jumbo until the unit is shut down unless the heading has been adequately secured with appropriate ground support, and in any case should **never proceed beyond the operator's position** until the jumbo is shut down, and the condition of the back and sides of the heading has been checked and those areas have been scaled if required.

The impact of rock drills, (whether drilling or placing rock bolts), is sufficiently great to loosen rock at the periphery of the heading or stope, and therefore reliance on scaling at the start of the shift only is totally inadequate.

Regular checking of unsupported rock surfaces on the back and sides during any activity is an essential component of good mining practice.

All operations should review their operating procedures and ensure that at least the above precautions are maintained by all operators.

Principal employers and managers are reminded of their responsibility for the safety of contractors employed in mining operations and for the effects that those contractors may have on the safety of the operations as a whole.

A separate Safety Bulletin (No. 19) which is commended to your attention, deals with the use of purpose built rock bolting jumbos and mechanical scaling.