



**DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 29**

**STOPE DRAW-POINT (MILL HOLE) – FATAL ACCIDENT**

**INCIDENT**

A popperman died when he was struck by rocks which fell from a 'hang up' in a draw-point. The deceased was attempting to recover a drill steel stuck in an oversized rock.

The drill steel became stuck when a pop hole was drilled during the previous shift.

**RELEVANT FACTS**

- When he tried to recover the drill steel, the deceased went under (and probably beyond) the brow of the draw-point.
- It is likely that production activities in draw-points on the opposite side of the stope contributed to the release of the 'hang up'.

**PREVENTATIVE ACTION**

- Persons are not to go beyond the brow of a draw-point.
- 'Hang ups' in draw-points should be blasted down with charges on blasting sticks or other means (such as brow firing tubes) which minimise any exposure.
- Oversize rocks in the draw-point should be mudblasted (sand blasted) where practicable.
- If it is necessary to drill pop holes in oversized rocks in a draw-point, the drilling and charging is to be carried out by remote control. Remote drilling and charging minimises the risk of being struck by falling rock and eliminates the risk of injury resulting from drilling into remnant explosives which may not be apparent in rock in a draw-point.
- Activities in adjacent draw-points must be ceased when bombs are being placed in a hung-up draw-point.
- A safe system for bringing down hand ups and dealing with oversized rocks should be devised, promulgated and enforced.

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**SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES**