



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO: 115

TYRE ROLLING DOWN A RAMP

INCIDENT

Whilst a front end loader was repositioning a truck tyre that was used as a road-edge marker on a pit ramp, the operator accidentally put the tyre on its end. The tyre then started rolling down the ramp. It narrowly missed a person on the ramp before crashing into a water tank further below.

The person on the ramp was acting as a guard to ensure there was no oncoming traffic. He was walking down the ramp when the tyre was being repositioned.

It was fortunate that the person did not sustain serious or fatal injuries. It was also fortunate the tyre did not collide with a light vehicle below him on the ramp.

CAUSES

- A Job Hazard Analysis had not been completed.
- Traffic had not been informed about the work being conducted on the ramp.
- The lifting equipment was not appropriate for the task.
- The hazard condition (large tyre rolling down a ramp) was not previously recognised.

COMMENT AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION:

Future risk analyses in the minerals industry need to recognise the potential for this type of hazard to be present and the need for appropriate measures to manage the associated risk.

To avoid a recurrence of this type of incident, the following action needs to be considered:

- Assess current work practices and procedures and ensure that safe systems of work that include appropriate precautions are in place to prevent the risk of injury to any persons using the ramp.

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- Place a physical barrier and signage across the ramp to prevent vehicles from using the ramp when tyres are being moved or installed.
The barrier may be fixed or portable depending on access requirements.
- Review tyre-lifting and handling equipment for adequacy across the site and across the full range of applications.

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