



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO: 130

Employee sprayed with rocks when a truck tyre failed

INCIDENT

Recently a truck driver escaped with minor injuries in a park-up area at shift change, when a truck tyre burst approximately 15 metres away. The operator had alighted from his truck and was walking to the shift change room, when a loaded truck commenced reversing. A tyre on this truck burst with the resulting air-blast lifting rocks and grit off the ground, striking the truck driver, who sustained numerous abrasion injuries causing him to collapse. The injuries could have been more severe had the truck driver been closer, or not wearing correct PPE.

CAUSES

- The burst tyre was weakened by a previous rock cut located between Pos 5 and 6.
- The previous rock cut was not formally inspected on a regular basis.
- The location of the previous rock cut was virtually impossible to observe during pre-start inspections.
- There was a lack of adequate knowledge by site personnel of the potential risks associated with being in close proximity to loaded trucks and the potential for a sudden massive release of energy.

PREVENTATIVE ACTION

- Tyre inspections should be carried out on a daily basis by competent employees to identify and monitor defects and wear.
- Good loading / trucking practices and haul road design and maintenance practice should be implemented to ensure the load is evenly distributed and spillage is minimised.
- Equipment capable of removing spillage from pit floors, ramps, haul roads, ROM pads and dumps should be available. Procedures should be developed to effectively deal with spillage.
- Tyre rotation and discard criteria should be developed in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
- Purpose designed loaded truck park-up areas should be available and specific procedures for pedestrian traffic adjacent to loaded trucks should be developed.
- Employee awareness of the potential for rupture due to wear, spillage, overheating and poor operating techniques should be addressed in operator training.
- Employees need to wear appropriate PPE at all times, especially at end of shift when equipment is operational in their vicinity.

Additional information relating to other incidents may be found in Significant Incident Report No. 122 available at the Department's web site www.doir.wa.gov.au.

M. Knee
State Mining Engineer