



Department of Consumer
and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia

Resources Safety 

Mines Safety

Significant Incident Report No. 136

Caught between headboards of two trucks — fatal accident

Incident

A contractor site manager was standing on the deck of a haul truck adjacent to the handrail. The haul truck had broken down and he was guiding a second haul truck into position to jump-start the out-of-service truck. As he was giving hand signals to the truck driver, his head was caught between the headboards of the two trucks.

Causes

The immediate cause of the accident was failure to take up a safe position for guiding the truck.

Comment

There were three vehicles parked near the work area and at least one was in a position that impeded the direct line of approach of the moving truck.

Although jump-starting of haul trucks is relatively common practice on some open pit mines, other methods of work are available. Examples are the use of starter units fixed to service vehicles and transportable battery carts.

Recommendations

Mine managers should review their site procedures for 'spotting' haul trucks and other large vehicles. In general terms, a safe location should be selected for the spotter. This would commonly be a position on the ground, in direct line-of-sight of the driver where the spotter could not be trapped or run over. Clear and consistent hand signals or radio contact should be established.

Mine managers should review their procedures for parking vehicles in the vicinity of haul trucks and other large earthmoving vehicles. Clear access should be maintained for maintenance and service equipment. The limited visibility from the driver's cabin should be considered and the risk of driving over an employee or other vehicles addressed.

Mine managers should also review their practices for jump-starting large earthmoving vehicles and consider the use of dedicated service vehicles equipped with battery packs, or the use of mobile battery carts.

MJ Knee
State Mining Engineer

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