



Dangerous Goods Safety Significant Incident Report No. 01-09

Attempted unauthorised entry of an explosives magazine

Incident

On the evening of 8 October or early morning of 9 October 2009, an unauthorised entry attempt was made on an explosives magazine at a quarry in the Perth metropolitan region. The front gate lock was cut to gain access to the site. Damage to the 10-tonne explosives magazine indicated that:

- a grinder was used in an effort to remove the hinges;
- the tubular extensions surrounding the key holes were cut off;
- the lock was drilled;
- the D-bar handle was significantly distorted; and
- the perpetrators also attempted to remove the gauze from a side ventilator to further try gaining access to the magazine.

The construction of the magazine complied with Australian Standard 2187.1:1998 *Explosives – Storage, transport and use – Storage* and it satisfactorily withstood the attack.

No explosives were being stored within the magazine at the time of the attack. It is of interest that the magazine had been on site for a week or two, and the attack occurred as soon as fencing started being erected around the compound.

It appears that the attempted theft of explosives was not opportunistic but rather a planned, organised event, which was sustained for a significant length of time while various entry tactics were applied. It is evident from the damage that the offenders did not have an understanding of the security mechanisms inherent in explosives magazines. In the early hours of the next day following the event, unauthorised individuals were observed at the site exhibiting suspicious behaviour before fleeing.

Like many quarries in or near built-up areas, this site is frequented by people riding off-road motorbikes and quad bikes. In order to increase security at the site, vehicle obstructions have been placed at potential access points to the magazine compound, and boulders are moved daily in front of the main gate to prevent after-hour vehicle access to the site.

Recommendation

Explosives storage licence holders should conduct a review of the security measures for their magazines. Where the need has been identified for additional security measures, these should be implemented as soon as possible.

Further information

Any theft or attempted theft or any unexplained loss of an explosive must be reported to a dangerous goods officer as per the provisions of regulation 44 of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007 and section 9 of the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*.

Information on reporting of dangerous goods incidents and the associated dangerous goods incident report form are available from Resources Safety's website at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

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