

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS UNDERGROUND

- Always test the brakes before entering the portal. Do not drive down declines on the service brakes. Select the correct gear and use the retarder if fitted
- Ensure the tray has been lowered before entering the portal
- Only enter excavations designed to suit the size of your truck
- Only operate in areas that have sufficient ventilation

- If a vehicle is emitting a lot of black smoke, report it to your supervisor and remove it from service
- Do not leave a vehicle unattended unless the power has been switched off and the brakes applied
- Turn the wheels towards the wall when the vehicle is parked on a slope

For further advice, refer to Part 13 — Surface Mining Operations and Part 10 — Specific Requirements for Underground Mines of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 and the *Tyre Safety, Fires and Explosions* guideline available at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

For further information, please contact an inspector at any of our regional offices listed below.

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The advice provided in this pamphlet is basic safety and health information. Ensure you are familiar with your site procedures and, if uncertain, discuss this information with your supervisor and safety and health representative.

Haul truck driving



THE HAZARDS

Mining trucks pose a significant hazard to employees, other vehicles and equipment because of their size, weight and power and the driver's limited visibility from the cabin.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Injury or death can result from:

- collision caused by:
 - light vehicles or employees in blind spot
 - poor visibility or unseen obstacles
 - steering or brake failure
 - excessive speed for road conditions
 - other vehicles and machines intruding in the truck's operating area

- lack of concentration or drowsiness
- reversing over the edge of a stockpile
- truck rollover due to speed or road conditions
- personnel falls when accessing cabin and service locations
- truck fire due to burst oil hoses
- tyre fire or explosion following contact of raised tray with overhead power lines
- tyre explosions due to damage or truck fire
- jolting and jarring caused by poor road maintenance or loading practices.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Always carry out the prestart checks and follow start-up procedures

- Walk around the truck to ensure the area around and under it is clear of obstacles, including other vehicles and people, and sound the horn before moving off
- Use designated pick up areas for driver change out. Ensure positive communication practices for getting on and off trucks
- Access and exit the truck correctly, maintain a three-point contact at all times and do not jump, even from the lowest rung
- Do not attempt to carry heavy or awkward material onto truck platforms
- Wear seatbelts and harnesses that are fitted in the vehicle
- Obey all road rules, speed limits, signs and traffic control systems
- Observe tyre inflation and condition of tyres – damaged or under-inflated tyres can lead to a tyre explosion or fire
- Check the brakes every time you move the truck

- Drive to the road conditions. Know the stopping distance for various road conditions and adjust your speed accordingly. Exercise particular care in wet weather
- Never coast downhill out of gear. Keep the transmission engaged, and use the retarder system
- Keep the cabin clean — loose items can jam under the brake or accelerator pedals
- Use two-way radios to communicate when overtaking or entering a congested area, or with people involved in activities around you
- Use the radio system correctly and maintain radio procedure and protocol
- Do not use the service brakes on downhills except in an emergency, as they may overheat and fail. Use the correct gears and retarder system
- If a load hangs up during tipping, contact your supervisor for assistance

- Use "Danger" and "Out of Service" tags when required, and take notice of any tags that may be in place
- Maintain a safe distance of five truck lengths (about 50 m) between trucks travelling in the same direction
- Slow down near buildings and built up areas, and pay attention to the position of overhead powerlines and other overhead structures
- Never drive off with the tray raised as it may hit overhead powerlines with potentially fatal consequences for personnel and major damage to the hoist rams
- Give plenty of room to other mobile equipment, such as graders, dozers and water trucks
- Slow down when negotiating bends and corners as sudden shifts in direction can cause the truck to roll over or rocks to fall onto the road

- Rock spillage can cause tyre damage. Avoid areas of spillage and contact your supervisor or the grader driver to remove them
- Ensure truck is regularly washed and kept clean so it is visible via marking and lights for both day and night time operations
- Approach dumping areas so the edge is on the driver's side and is clearly visible. If in doubt, dump away from the edge and notify your supervisor
- Never dump over the edge of a stockpile above an area where material has been or is being removed until you have been reliably informed that it is safe to do so
- Do not use the retarder as a parking brake
- Tag out and report all truck defects, and submit reports of all incidents, including near misses



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