



SAFETY BULLETIN NO: 68

DEATH OF DOZER DRIVER - CORONIAL FINDING

DISCUSSION

In her finding regarding the death of the driver of a large dozer which fell over the edge of pit slope in an accident during 2001, the Coroner made the following recommendations regarding the prevention of future incidents of a similar nature:

Risk Hazard Analysis

Where a particular part of the work process is of significant on going difficulty then instructions need to include the negative as well as the positive. That is, operators at all levels, need to be told why they are not to work a particular area, not just the fact an area is restricted. Not only should the abnormal and hazardous situation require a comprehensive risk analysis process it should also be communicated to all relevant parties in detail including reasons for work not required as well as outlining ways work required should be done.

The risk analysis process should be reviewed as circumstances change and the reviews [should be] communicated to all relevant parties. That is there would be benefit in a risk hazard analysis for the feature known as "the [workplace where the particular fatality occurred]" not just for the work intended to be carried out on "the [workplace*]". This would ensure the reason for the JHA was communicated not merely the fact of a JHA.*

Cone protocol

In addition where there is a system in use such as the cones to delineate a restricted area there must also be a distinction made between the circumstances of the restriction. In this case the [accident location] Bench was zoned off as a restricted area with different cone colours depending on the particular restriction, but work was occurring in the area and could be done safely. Therefore on traversing the cones to the restricted area there was nothing further to indicate that while some areas could be worked others under no circumstances should be.*

*[*Note: references to the actual workplace and accident location in this particular case have been removed to emphasise the **general** application of the Coroner's recommendations.]*

APPLICATION TO OTHER OPERATIONS

The attention of mining employers and managers and the operators of mobile plant is specifically drawn to the Coroner's remarks and the importance of **COMPREHENSIVE** risk management procedures and practices is emphasised. In this regard, it is most important that everyone involved in the process has a clear understanding of **ALL** of the implications of the particular hazards under consideration in the given circumstances, so that there is a full appreciation of the reasons for particular procedures or limitations being put in place.

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