



Safe access to vehicles and mobile equipment

Issued August 2021

Safety issues in regard to entering, exiting, ascending or descending of vehicles and mobile equipment can be easily overlooked. Factors such as poorly designed and maintained access, inattention or incorrect practice may lead to potential injuries.

Simple inattention when stepping down from a vehicle onto an uneven or unstable surface can result in a rolled ankle and lost time injury. This is the most common incident associated with access and egress from vehicles and plant in the field.

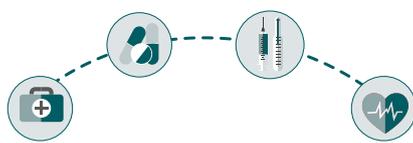
This snapshot covers the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (unless stated otherwise). During this period there were a total of 120 injuries related to access to vehicles and mobile equipment.

For more information about occupational safety and health, visit our website www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

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Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Injuries by severity



related to access to vehicles and mobile equipment were **classified as serious**

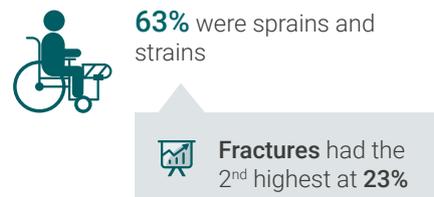


47 of the 120 injuries were **lost time**

Injuries by employment type



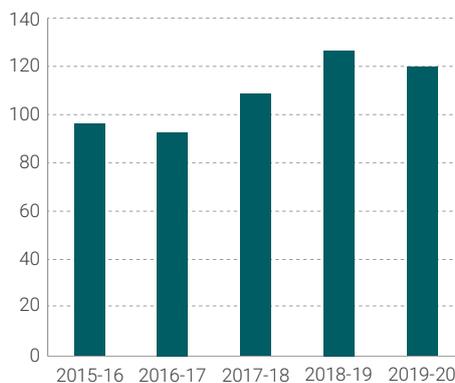
Injuries by nature (top 2)



Injuries by days lost



Access to vehicle and mobile equipment injuries in the last 5 financial years



Injuries by area

95 of the 120 injuries occurred during **surface operations**



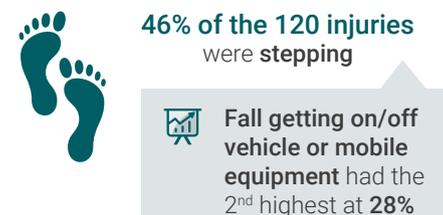
25 of the 120 injuries occurred during **underground operations**



Injuries by part of body (top 3)



Injuries by type of accident (top 2)



Some recent incidents



Rolled ankle 19/09/20

A worker at an open pit stepped from a haul truck onto the pit floor and rolled their ankle. The worker was attended by paramedics on site then examined again at an off-site medical centre.



Rolled ankle 02/01/21

A worker rolled their ankle when exiting a truck at a processing plant.



Torn meniscus 16/07/19

An operator twisted their knee descending the access ladder of a water cart at an open pit. The operator misjudged the last step and received medical treatment for a torn meniscus.



Laceration 09/09/19

A worker was descending a fixed ladder on the side of a drill rig when he inadvertently straddled a wooden grid peg, resulting in laceration of the scrotum. He received first aid on site before being transferred to the regional hospital for further treatment.



Broken arm and strained shoulder 01/07/19

A worker at an open pit exited the cab of a digger, slipped on the bottom step and fell. He broke his fall with his arm and strained his shoulder.

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 202

Fall from crane deck results in serious injury

30 June 2014



Contributory causes

- Access to the deck of the crane was poorly designed. The ladder was narrow and there were limited hand holds above the deck.
- The risk of falling from height was not identified for the task.
- There was no training in the safe work procedure for working at height.

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 271

Near miss when latch fails and gate swings open on a haul truck

23 November 2018



Contributory causes

- The site's routine maintenance program and prestart inspection regime for the plant didn't prompt workers to inspect the latch.
- The original equipment manufacturer (OEM) released a service bulletin in April 2017 relating to the latch; however, the recommended works were not actioned on this vehicle.
- The OEM's service bulletin didn't identify the hazard relating to a failure of the latch. Nor did it communicate this as a mandatory improvement or a priority for the recommended works.

Safe work practices



Check for uneven surfaces before stepping down from vehicle and mobile equipment



Maintain three-point contact at all times while entering, exiting, ascending, or descending



Regular inspection and maintenance of vehicles and mobile equipment



Employees adequately trained regarding the safe access and exit of vehicle and mobile equipment



Ensure that there is adequate lighting on vehicles



Only authorised, trained workers can access vehicles and mobile equipment



Steps, rails, handholds, ladders and surfaces should be free of debris and grease



Do not use parts of vehicle or mobile equipment that are not designed as handholds or footholds e.g. doors or mudguards