



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO: 124

TYRE INFLATION FATAL ACCIDENT

Incident:

A self employed mine worker was fatally injured when struck by a wheel assembly he had fitted and was in the process of inflating.

The assembly consisted of a 7.5 x 16 tyre and a 7.5 x 16 inner tube being fitted onto a 6.75 x 16.5 rim.

It is believed that the inner tube burst and the tyre bead failed on the underside causing a sudden uncontrolled release of compressed air. This propelled the wheel upward from the ground striking the deceased.

Evidence suggests the tyre was not compatible with the rim.

Preventative Action:

To ensure tyre repairs are carried out safely at an operation, the following actions are recommended.

- Employees required to undertake tyre-fitting work must be given adequate instruction and training in accordance with Regulation 4.13 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995.
- Persons engaged in tyre fitting work must ensure the tyre being fitted is the correct size and compatible with the rim.
- All light vehicle or industrial tyres that have just been mounted onto a rim must be inflated inside a tyre cage. Personnel should stand to one side of the wheel during inflation.
- During the inflation process the tyre pressure should be regularly monitored using a suitable pressure gauge.
- Tyres must never be inflated beyond the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Damaged tyres that are no longer serviceable should be discarded and not reused.

M J Knee
STATE MINING ENGINEER

14 July 2003

GMI480VS/Rep