



## Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 175

### Tyre handler's fall-back arms become projectiles

#### Summary of incident

While using a tyre handler, a worker attempted to rotate a wide profile tyre from the vertical to horizontal position, without retracting the fall-back arms. This resulted in the 5 kg fall-back arms breaking off and being projected 40 and 15 metres, respectively, into the tyre bay work area.

There were no injuries but the projectiles had the potential to cause serious injury or death to personnel in the area.

#### Probable causes

##### *Direct*

- The fall-back arms were not placed in the retracted position before the tyre was rotated.

##### *Contributory*

- Employee induction and training processes did not effectively evaluate the trainees' understanding of the hazards of the tyre changing process and the associated risks.

#### Action required

All reasonably foreseeable hazards and risks must be identified and addressed when introducing tyre handling devices to a mine, because they are potentially very hazardous machines. They must only be operated by competent personnel using adequate information, such as operating manuals from the original equipment manufacturer.

If a tyre handling device is modified, the hazards and associated risks must be reassessed and addressed. Retraining and reassessment of operator competency may be required.

#### Further information

Visit the publication section of the Resources Safety website at [www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety) for the following safety alert.

Mines Safety Bulletin No. 89 [Earth-moving equipment tyres and use of tyre handling machinery](#)

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