



Significant Incident Report No. 230

Subject: Dump truck roll-over - fatal accident

Date: 18 November 2015

Summary of incident

Note: The Department of Mines and Petroleum's investigation is ongoing. The information contained in this significant incident report is based on materials received, knowledge and understanding at the time of writing.

An operator driving a dump truck was hauling waste rock from an open pit to the waste dump. For reasons unknown, the operator failed to negotiate a slight left-hand bend and the truck took a gradual path to the left before colliding with the hard rock windrow.

Tyre marks indicate that the truck's front and rear left tyres mounted the windrow, and the dump truck rolled onto its right side. There is no evidence of braking before or at the time the truck mounted the windrow.

Two workers nearby heard the collision and one ran over to assist. The operator was still in the driver's cab (on the upper left side of the truck) and shortly after fell about 3.75 m to the ground from the passenger's side of the cab.

Despite the efforts of work colleagues and the emergency services, the operator died a short time later.

A vehicle examination showed the dump truck to be in full working order. The driver's seat belt was also deemed to be in good working order.



Rear and front views of the dump truck

Direct causes

- The dump truck mounted the hard rock windrow, changing its centre of gravity and causing it to roll over.

Contributory causes

The investigation is ongoing and contributory causes are yet to be confirmed.

Actions required

The following actions, required under the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995, support safe driving practices on mine sites.

For employers and mine managers, regulations 4.16(1) and (2) require:

- each vehicle used at the mine to be fitted with seat belts and seat belt anchorage points that conform with the Australian Design Rules
- if any seat position is added to a vehicle used at the mine, the seat to be fitted with a seat belt and seat belt anchorage point that conforms with the Australian Design Rules
- if a seat is a suspension seat, the seat belt anchorage to be attached to the seat assembly and the seat belt fitted with the appropriate retractor.

Regulation 4.16(3) requires people driving or travelling in a vehicle where a seat belt is fitted for that seat position to properly adjust and securely fasten that belt.

Workers should be instructed, through training and inductions, regarding the importance of using the seatbelts provided in vehicles to reduce the impact of potential collisions.

Further information

- Resources Safety, Department of Mines and Petroleum, www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

Haul truck driving – mine safety matters pamphlet

- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development,
https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/design/adr_online.aspx

Third Edition Australian Design Rules

This Significant Incident Report was approved for release by the State Mining Engineer on 18 November 2015