



**DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 8**

**ROCKBOLTING UNDERGROUND – FATAL ACCIDENT**

**INCIDENT**

An underground miner lost his life when he was struck by falling rocks in an ore drive.

The deceased was in the process of rockbolting the back of a drive currently being developed and had drilled several holes in order to install rockbolts. He had commenced drilling from a point near the face of the drive, working back to an area which was previously bolted.

His body was found trapped under a large rock with a number of holes drilled through it.

**CAUSE**

The primary causes of this accident were:

- (i) the failure to install rockbolts progressively as each hold was drilled;
- (ii) the failure to adhere to standard and correct practice of working from ground already secured towards the unsecured area.

**COMMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION**

It is vital that careful examination is carried out of the ground conditions in newly mined areas and that rockbolting procedures are established and closely supervised, appropriate to the ground conditions.

It is also critically important that correct types of bolts are used and the method of installation is in accordance with established and proven practices. Guidelines for the selection and installation of the three most common types of rockbolts currently in use in the goldfields of WA are appended to this report.

The long established safe practice of working forward from solid or secured ground towards unsupported or suspect ground must be adhered to.

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STATE MINING ENGINEER

30 January 1990

**SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES**