



**DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 27

SHRINK STOPE - FATAL ACCIDENT

INCIDENT

A miner was completely buried by broken ore as he worked in a shrink stope. It is probable that broken ore in the stope had hung up and collapsed suddenly without warning, while the miner was carrying drilling equipment across the stope.

Ore had been drawn from the stope the previous day, but the miner was not satisfied with the “shrink”. He had discussed the matter with the bogger driver immediately before the accident and requested additional ore be pulled from the relevant draw point.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

When ore is being drawn from a shrink stope the miner should stop other activities and observe the movement of ore in the stope from a safe vantage point.

To prevent casual access by other persons “**NO ENTRY**” signs should be placed at entrances to the stope immediately prior to and during the period when ore is being drawn.

The area affected by the draw should not be entered until the bogger driver has completed drawing the amount of ore requested by the miner and has reported this back to the miner.

The miner should be satisfied that ore in the stope has moved to the extent expected, and has not “hung up” before re-starting work from the broken ore in the stope.

J M Torlach
STATE MINING ENGINEER

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SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES