



**FALL FROM HEIGHT IN GIG RISE – FATAL ACCIDENT**

**INCIDENT**

A gig rise miner received fatal injuries when he fell 25 metres to the bottom of a rise. He was travelling to the gig in a Bosun's chair at the time of the accident.

The gig had been left at the face at the end of the previous shift following the commencement of boring operations.

The bosun's chair and secondary hoist were being used for travelling to and from the gig.

**FINDINGS**

The D ring on the bosun's chair failed causing the bosun's chair to become detached from the hoist rope and shackle arrangement. A slightly bent 2.4m drill steel was located at the bottom of the rise.

The gig was not supported by chains or pins in the rise.

**COMMENTS – PREVENTATIVE ACTION**

The bosun's chair and secondary hoist should not be used as the primary means of access to the face of a gig rise. This equipment is intended for use only in an emergency. The gig should be the main means of travelling to and from the face.

Prior to the use of any fall arrest equipment underground it is important to verify that the equipment and attachments are adequately designed for the task and are not likely to be subject to failure under the action of the forces that may be applied in both normal and emergency use.

Each employer should carry out a risk assessment for the installation of plant and adequate controls should then be implemented for the risks identified. Where risks are identified, each employer must consider whether any risk of exposure to that hazard may be reduced.

Comprehensive procedures should be written (after consultation with the employees involved) covering all aspects of the work to be carried out. It is also appropriate to record what activities are prohibited when carrying out the work.

Employees including maintenance, supervisory and management staff need to be trained in and understand the written procedures so that effective supervision and compliance with standards can be maintained. This can only be assured by effective training, auditing and task observation. Staff must also be made accountable to ensure that the appropriate standards, determined in consultation with the workforce, are being implemented.

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