



S A F E T Y B U L L E T I N

ANNUAL ROAD CLOSURES ON MINING TENEMENTS

The practice of closing private roads on mining tenements for a short period during the year is widespread in the industry.

Recently, a member of the public was seriously injured when his motorcycle crashed into a heavy chain suspended across an access road. The flashing warning lights installed at the site had been tampered with, and were no longer attached.

Companies should be aware that there is no requirement under the Mining Act 1978 to temporarily close roads to retain their private status. The practice is based on common law, and if observed, the following safety precautions should be implemented:

1. Adequate (public) notice of the impending closure should be given to both members of the public and employees.
2. Warning devices should be installed on approaches to the closed road and at the site of any barricade.
3. Warning signs should be properly lit and checked periodically to ensure they are still in place.
4. The use of chains and other fixed devices should be avoided. Barriers that will give on impact, or are designed to minimise damage on accidental impact will reduce the hazard to inadvertent entry.

J M Torlach
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