



Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 186

Crush injuries sustained around moving machinery – fatal accident

Summary of incident

A worker was fatally injured in an accident at an iron ore processing facility. The accident occurred on the tripper level of the processing facility. It appears that the deceased was greasing an electric motor at the time of the accident and the tripper conveyor was operating in automatic mode. Preliminary enquiries indicate that the worker was caught between the motor cable termination box and a moving component of the tripper unit.

Probable causes

The investigation is at an early stage and probable causes are yet to be confirmed. However, the injuries sustained do demonstrate the hazard posed to workers working in the vicinity of moving plant. In this case, an access ladder was fixed to the tripper unit and was moving in an open access area.

Actions required

This is a preliminary notification to remind managers and supervisors of the importance of conducting detailed risk assessments for work associated with or near moving plant. The risk assessment should carefully examine any potential contact points that could cause injury. Workers may be struck or caught in nip or crush points. These areas should be clearly identified in the risk assessment and dealt with using the hierarchy of control.

Regulations that apply to this activity include regulations 6.17, 6.18, 6.20(c) and 6.27 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995.

Regulation 6.27(1) states that an employer must ensure that:

- cleaning, maintenance and repair of plant with moving parts are not undertaken while the plant is operating unless there is no practicable alternative approach, and
- where guarding of moving parts does not completely eliminate the risk of entanglement, persons do not operate or pass in close proximity to the plant.

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