



Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 188

Light vehicle struck by underground truck in decline

Summary of incident

An underground light vehicle driver travelling up a decline misjudged a radio call and thought he could safely make it to the next safe parking location. As he approached a blind bend, he saw the headlights of a truck coming down the decline. He anticipated that the truck driver would not see him and attempted to pull into a pump cuddy. His vehicle did not have enough momentum to negotiate the step up into the pump cuddy and fully exit the decline.

As the truck travelled past the pump cuddy, its right hand side collided with the rear right hand side of the light vehicle. The light vehicle was pulled out of the cuddy and its front wedged under the truck's rear tyre.

A moving pump line was the only indication the truck driver had that he had hit something. He stopped and exited the truck to investigate possible damage to the pump line and discovered the light vehicle wedged under the truck. Fortunately, the light vehicle driver sustained only minor injuries.



Figure 1 Incident scene after the light vehicle driver had been extracted and the truck reversed back



Figure 2 A mines inspector viewing the recovered damaged light vehicle

Probable causes

Direct

- The light vehicle driver attempted to travel further along the decline than was practicable before interacting with the truck.

Indirect

- Absence of designated and standard signs at call-up locations for trucks using decline.
- The light vehicle driver attempted to enter and park in an unsuitable location.
- A blind bend on the decline and the location of the beacon on the light vehicle did not provide sufficient illumination to make the light vehicle visible to the truck driver.

Actions required

Review the site's traffic management plan with respect to the potential for collisions and contacts between underground mobile equipment. The plan should:

- identify adequate call-up points
- establish appropriate signage along the decline to indicate each call-up point
- establish clear radio usage protocols
- provide an adequate number of passing and parking locations suitable for light vehicles along the decline
- restrict access to decline locations that are not suitable for parking vehicles.

Review the appropriateness of the location and type of beacon used on underground mobile equipment.



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