

Serious accidents and high potential incidents- Metalliferous mines and quarries

Compilation of reports for July 2016

Gravity

Fall of equipment/material (6)

- Approximately one tonne of shotcrete fell from the wall of a hoisting shaft and landed on one of the skips.
- Two surveyors had completed a void measuring survey in a partially waste filled stope using survey equipment mounted on a boom which was attached to a trolley. They were removing the gear when the material beneath the trolley gave way and rilled toward the open stope brow on the level below where a mucking unit had been extracting material.
- A small foldable platform weighing approximately 20kg, located above a smelter converter, fell four meters to the platform below.
- A mud rush occurred in an ore pass chain control area above an underground crusher after a large volume of wet material was tipped into the ore pass.
- A 40 kg piece of concrete spalled, due to reinforcement corrosion, from a concrete wall in a process plant and fell four metres to the floor below.
- An 8 kg piece of concrete fell in a process plant onto a walkway.

Fall of ground (5)

- The operator of a Hitachi EX 1200 Excavator was standing on the catwalk of his machine when a large rock moved down the muck pile and hit the catwalk.
- A 1.3 magnitude seismic event occurred in an underground mine resulting in a level being dusted out. The mine was evacuated while inspections of the decline, shaft and

surrounding levels were carried out by site geotechnical personnel

- While a Hitachi 670 excavator was loading trucks at the face, a rock has dislodged from the face and struck the catwalk of the excavator.
- Approximately 100 kg of rock fell from the crest of a bench and onto the ramp below after rainfall eroded the crest.
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Fall of People (1)

- A passenger was exiting the cabin of a Hino 700 rear dump truck when he slipped on the access steps and fell backwards 1.5 m to the ground. The worker was taken to hospital suffering back and shoulder pain and numbness in his leg; he was able to be discharged later in the day.

Vehicle

Collision with another vehicle (1)

- During relocation, a mobile screen has contacted the boom of an excavator parked nearby, causing damage to a conveyor on the mobile screen.

Collision with a structure (1)

- A truck and dog reversed into another truck while queuing at a pugmill.

Loss of control (3)

- When A Komatsu WA 480 loader drove onto a rock that had dropped from its bucket the loader tilted sideways against the truck it was loading, preventing the loader from rolling over.
- A prime mover was towing a trailer carrying two racks of copper anodes each weighing approximately 30 t. As the prime mover turned a corner one of the racks of anodes fell onto the road.
- A Cat TH414C Telehandler with its boom extended tipped onto its side while manoeuvring a 60 m length of HDPE into position.

Electrical

Electric shock (2)

- During the shutdown and isolation process for a tailings pump associated with worker received an electric shock while isolating the battery supply.
- An operator went to pickup a pipe wrench from a steel work bench and received an electric shock. The bench had become electrically live as the result of an exposed live conductor in a power cable touching the bench; vermin had chewed through the power cable exposing the conductor.

Mechanical

Lifting (1)

- In attempting to straighten a loader bucket a worker used a 20t jack and drill rod. When pressure was applied to the jack the base of the jack slipped causing the drill rod to spear out and strike the worker's right hand. The worker required eight stitches to a deep laceration in his hand.

Struck by projectile (1)

- A worker walking through a workshop was struck in the eye by a sliver of steel. The projectile was caused when a worker nearby struck a universal joint with a steel punch. The worker

was taken to hospital and required surgery to remove the sliver.

Other (1)

- While drilling cable holes with a Sandvik Solo 05 production drill rig, a drill rod caught in the carousel and when the gripper arms were extended to grab the rod the rod was ejected towards the cab of the drill rig where it struck the operator across his chest.

Explosives

Misfire (1)

- While breaking oversize rocks with an excavator, the operator discovered two boosters laying exposed on the bench.

Thermal

Fire (3)

- A fire started in the motor of a track mounted screen in a quarry. The QFRS were called after attempts to put the fire out with two fire extinguishers were unsuccessful. The screening plant was destroyed.
- The right hand front mudflap on an underground light vehicle caught fire as a result of prolonged contact with the hot exhaust pipe.
- A diesel leak in the engine bay of a Cat 777 F truck caused a fire. The fire was extinguished using the on board fire suppression system and hand held fire extinguishers.

Explosion (1)

- Molten metal and gas were expelled violently from the feed port of a smelting furnace.

Other (1)

- A worker was affected by smelter gas when his full face respirator was overcome by a plume of gas. He reported burns to his mouth and throat and was treated at the Mount Isa Base Hospital.

Figure 1 – July 2016 events reported (28)

