



# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Failure of fire suppression system on rear dump truck

### INCIDENT

The fire suppression system on a rear dump truck failed to activate when the driver operated the manual switch located in the cabin.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

While operating a rear dump truck along the haul road of an open cut mine, the driver noticed flames emanating from the exhaust of the truck. As a precautionary measure the driver activated the engine fire suppression system by depressing the plunger switch located in the driver's cabin.

The suppression system failed to activate. Further investigation indicated that the engine turbo charge had failed and was the source of the flames. The operator immediately implemented a check on other equipment at the mine fitted with fire suppressant systems to ensure no defects were present.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All mobile plant should be assessed for fire risks, with appropriate risk controls being implemented to prevent a fire initiating. Note:
  - AS 5062 *Fire protection for mobile and transportable equipment* and MDG 15 *Guideline for mobile and transportable equipment for use in mines* provide guidance in fire risk assessment and fire risk controls for mobile plant
  - Information on mobile plant fire incidents can be found at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/publications/statistical-publications](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/publications/statistical-publications)
2. Where fitted, fire protection systems on mobile plant should be designed, installed, tested, and maintained in accordance with AS 5062.
3. Operators of mines should implement an inspection and review of all mobile plant fitted with fire protection systems to ensure such systems:
  - are fitted to manufacturers' specifications
  - have been maintained, periodically inspected and tested to manufacturers specifications and are in satisfactory operating condition.

**NOTE:** Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

### Signed

**Rob Regan**  
**DIRECTOR, MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS, NSW DPI**

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