

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for December 2010

Fall of Person (3)

- A worker fell 1.5m after part of the vibratory feeder platform he was working from collapsed.
- A miner working from the basket of a Normet explosives charging vehicle was thrown forward and down when the eyelet of the tilt cylinder ram failed.

Fall of Equipment (18)

- A wire sling, rated at 2.3t, broke while lowering a 2t conveyor counterweight into position. The counterweight dropped 3.5m before the conveyor belt took up the load.
- A wire rope, which was tensioning a conveyor belt via a counterweight, failed resulting in the counterweight falling 3m to the ground within the guarded area.
- As a crane was lifting a bull gear away from a dragline one of the three slings failed dropping the gear to the ground.
- The cradle on a Tamrock Axera 7 two boom development drill jumbo dropped to the ground when the roll over post on the boom failed.
- Scaffolding erected in a process plant fell 10m when it was struck by a gantry crane.
- A hoist hood roller shaft failed and fell to the floor of a dragline house.
- A 40 – 50kg mesh guard which had been removed from a feeder chute and leaned up against the walkway handrail toppled over onto the operator who was clearing an obstruction in the chute. The operator suffered a suspected broken rib and punctured lung.
- A 4t forklift was in the process of removing a 57 inch wheel rim assembly from the tray of a semi trailer when the assembly moved forward off the forks and fell 1.4m to the ground.
- A Cat 793D dump truck reversed into a bund to tip its load on a dump when the ground below it slumped about 1.5m.
- A Cat 992 loader was articulated while loading a Cat 777 dump truck on undulating ground when it tipped onto its side with the bucket landing on the body of the truck.
- While unfolding a Hiab crane on an exploration truck the lifting arm dropped and hit the hydraulic tank.
- While pulling rods from an exploration hole a weld failed on the jib hydraulic ram of a Schramm T685 drill rig causing the jib to fall.
- A 33kV power pole that had been eaten by white ants fell over.

Fall of Ground (17)

- A section of highwall 30-40m in length on the middle bench of a ramp failed and fell into the pit which was full of water at the time.
- Approximately 2000bcm of material fell from the crest of an endwall with some falling outside the protective bunded area.
- Material fell from a face around a dump truck with a large rock rilling against the position 2 tyre.
- A fitter was standing on the front platform of an Hitachi EX3600 excavator checking a boom lift cylinder when he was struck by a small rock which fell from the loaded bucket.
- While a dozer was cleaning up at the toe of a highwall some material fell and struck the side of the dozer damaging the handrails.
- A roof fall, 5m long x 1.5m thick and the full width of the heading occurred in the tail gate heading of a longwall.
- A rock weighing about 2kg fell from an underground development face and struck a loader operator who was cleaning material from the toe of the face.
- A development drill jumbo operator had just returned to the cabin after changing a drill bit when 3-4t of rock fell from the face onto the booms.
- A 4t rockfall occurred from the shoulder area of a decline after newly installed ground support failed.

Mechanical (24)

- The driver of a road train had changed a tyre and was lowering the jack when the tyre ruptured. He sustained fatal injuries.
- A fitter was using a torque wrench when the hydraulic line feeding it split and a jet of high pressure oil glanced off his leg.
- A 7kg plastic guide buffer was ejected at high velocity from a walking knuckle of a Marion 8050 dragline which was being walked to a new location. It brushed a spotter standing about 30m away before coming to rest about 90m from where it started.
- During replacement of a bucket ram cylinder on a Komatsu 1250 excavator the supervisor asked for the bucket to be operated to check an oil leak he had noticed. When the bucket moved the partially inserted cylinder link pin broke and was projected 15 metres, just missing the supervisor.
- During a dragline dump rope change crowbars were being used to align the rope in the socket when one of the workers was struck under the chin by a crowbar resulting in a deep laceration.

() The number in brackets next to each category heading is the total number of accidents and incidents reported for that category.

- A worker in an LHD lift basket, which was being raised, broke three fingers when his hand was caught between the handrail of the basket and the structure he was installing.
- During installation of a new Abbey 1t hoist to the front of a DK90 overburden drill rig it was identified that the hoist was not fitted with a proximity switch that would prevent a load being lifted over the hoist operator (refer recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest into the BMA Blackwater Mine Vehicle Loading Crane fatality 12 April 2002).
- A concrete agitator truck driver fractured his vertebrae when he hit his head on the roof of the cab after driving over a bump on a decline.
- A continuous miner continued to reverse after the operator released the dead-man button on the remote control.

Vehicle – Collision (18)

- Two Komatsu 830E dump trucks had a nose to tail collision while queuing to be loaded on a ramp when the rear truck contacted the tray of the truck in front.
- A Mack service truck was reversed into position to refuel a dump truck. The operator applied the park brake and left the cab. As he walked to the rear of the service truck it drove through the park brake and reversed into the dump truck.
- The dayshift dragline operator parked his light vehicle and entered the dragline to have a handover with the nightshift operator. During the handover the nightshift operator swung the dragline and the shoe struck the vehicle.
- A Komatsu 730E dump truck contacted a Komatsu WA900 loader at a tip head. The loader operator was unaware the truck was in his work area.
- A Coaltram loader collided with the rear of a parked forklift in a workshop when the operator's foot caught under the brake pedal and he was unable to fully apply the brakes.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (15)

- A Cat 16M grader was travelling down a ramp when the brakes failed. The driver lowered the blade and rippers to stop the grader.
- A Cat 793 dump truck slid on a ramp and came to rest against the ramp bund.
- The front wheel assembly fell off a Joy 15SC shuttle car after all eight mounting bolts failed.
- A water cart drifted off the haulroad and into the drain while the operator was adjusting the radio.
- While travelling down a ramp a loaded Komatsu 730E dump truck lost retarder function. The operator drove into the ramp bund to stop the truck.
- A light vehicle slid on a wet haul road and contacted the bund where it rolled onto its side.
- A light vehicle operator had a micro sleep and hit the side wall of the drive.
- An IT forklift, which had been parked on a slope with the handbrake engaged, rolled away into a gully where it rolled over.

- A forklift kept travelling in reverse after the operator jumped off to stop the load from falling off the forks.
- While an employee was removing wheel chocks from a service truck in a workshop vehicle bay the truck rolled back 2m.

Explosion (7)

- A shuttle car cable caught between the damaged section of hungry board and the body of the car exposing the conductors and tripping the power.
- Hot work was performed on an explosives MPU truck without cleaning to remove any explosive residues.
- When a shotfirer reversed a light vehicle over a double primed loaded hole one of the downlines caught on the underside of the vehicle and was subsequently stretched and snapped as the vehicle was driven forward.

Fire (25)

- Gear lubricating grease ignited in the hoist gears of a Bucyrus 1370 dragline after a shaft failed causing the gears to misalign and heat up.
- While cutting dragline ropes acetylene leaking from a swivel joint in the acetylene hose ignited.
- While conducting hot work on a production drill rig methane below the rig ignited. A hand held extinguisher was used to put out the fire.
- While refuelling a Cat 16G grader, using a Wiggins fuel fitting, diesel sprayed over the turbo area creating a small fire.
- A fire started on one of the turbos of a Cat 789B dump truck after oil leaked onto the turbo from a loose oil supply fitting. The engine oil pressure light came on and the on-board fire suppression automatically discharged.
- An oil fire in the engine bay of a Komatsu 785 dump truck reignited after the fire suppression had been activated. A nearby water cart was used to finally extinguish the fire.
- A combination of the on-board fire suppression and a hand held fire extinguisher was used to put out a fire in the transmission area of an Elphinstone 2900 underground loader.

Electrical (13)

- An employee received a mild electric shock whilst operating an emergency stop button adjacent to a wash-down pad.
- A boilermaker received an electric shock while changing a welding rod after an extension lead melted onto the earth clamp.
- A sharp edge on a cable pulling device cut into an energised dragline cable during a dragline walk. The inner conductors were exposed and power tripped at the transportable substation.
- The main 1000V circuit breaker on a longwall conveyor failed during operation causing minor damage to the inside of the IP55 enclosure.
- During the starting sequence of a slip ring pump motor, a short circuit was created across the slip rings. The resultant arc fault pressure caused the inspection window on the cover to blow out.

Other (17)

- All personnel were withdrawn from underground and the in-pit area due to an extreme weather event causing loss of power and ventilation.
- Workers were withdrawn from underground coal mine after a panel was sealed following a rise in water levels in the panel which choked off the ventilation circuit resulting in a rise in CH₄ and CO.
- An open cut was inundated by floodwater from the Dawson River after a levee bank was breached.
- Fume from a shot breached the exclusion zone forcing workers to evacuate from their crib huts.
- An underground miner working in a development panel suffered heat exhaustion shortly after the start of his shift. He was taken to the surface and

rehydrated before being taken to hospital for further treatment.

- An underground worker doing manual work on a decline was removed from the mine and taken to hospital after suffering from the early stages of heat exhaustion.
- An underground worker who was engaged in construction work was taken to hospital suffering from heat illness.
- A sulphuric acid tanker driver was unlocking a camlok fitting after unloading when acid sprayed out of the still pressurised fitting, some of which landed on the back of his neck.
- An operator was bitten on the hand by a snake as he got out of the cab of his loader.

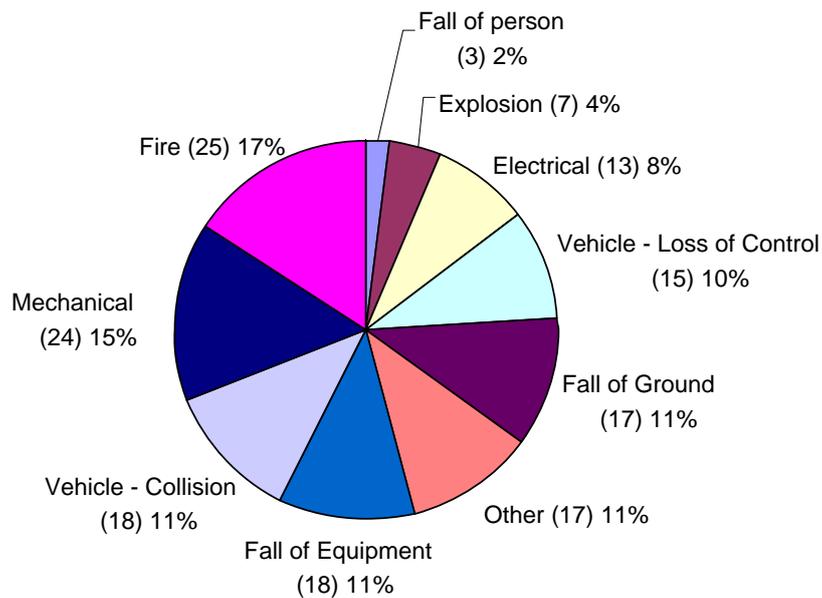


Figure 1: December 2010 Incidents (total 157) by Category

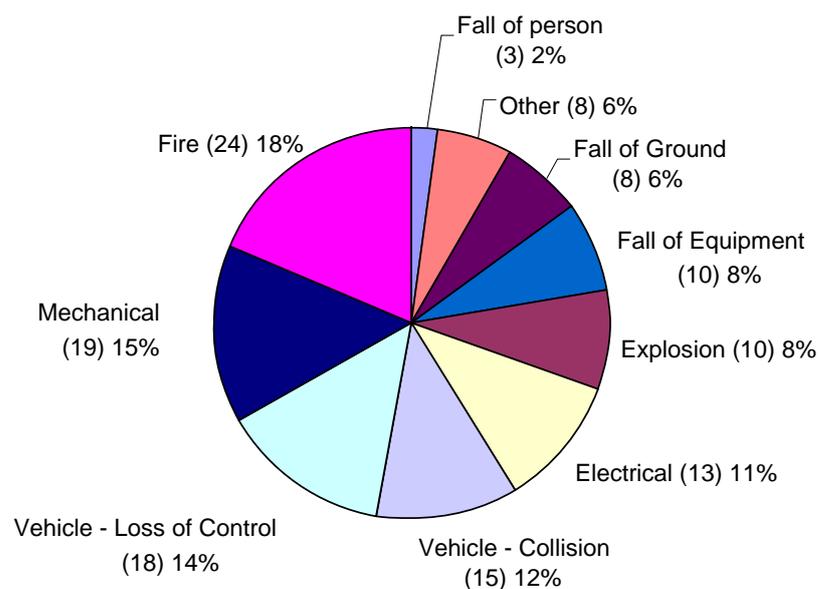


Figure 2: Twelve Month Rolling Average (127 incidents/month) by Category