

Serious accidents and high potential incidents

Mining and quarrying

Compilation of reports for July 2010

Fall of Person (3)

- During refuelling of an excavator, the operator slipped off the tracks and cracked a bone in his right hand thumb.

Fall of Equipment (4)

- A driller was running the rods into the hole. He had moved the guard from around the drill stem to enable him to guide the rod. The drill head came down and contacted his right hand causing damage to a finger.
- An excavator in a quarry was top loading from a bench into a mobile jaw crusher. Whilst re-positioning the excavator, it toppled over the bench. The operator was rescued from the excavator through the front windscreen and suffered a fracture to his right wrist.
- A mine worker was working from an Eimco bucket whilst removing vent tube from the roof of an underground roadway. A section of vent tube fell, knocking the worker out of the bucket. The worker suffered concussion when he hit the ground.

Fall of Ground (6)

- A Loader operator in an underground metalliferous mine was struck by a 300mm long rock when stepping out of his loader to move a stope fill marker. The operator sustained bruising to an arm.
- A worker was hit by a 15kg rock whilst digging lifters at the face of an underground metalliferous mine. The worker sustained bruising.

Mechanical (28)

- One of the rear wheels fell off a light vehicle as it entered the crib room carpark at a surface coal mine. Initial investigation has revealed that the wheel nuts had come loose allowing the wheel to fall off.
- Several work crews had electrically isolated a conveyor belt at a surface coal mine. During a smoko break, another work crew came onto site and released the loop take up tension tower. This meant that the belt moved after it had been isolated.
- A mineworker suffered bruising to his cheek and hand when he was struck by the end of a 1" airline after a screwed adaptor came apart.
- A Franna mobile crane was started by an operator who was unaware that a maintenance employee was underneath the rear of the crane checking the serial number on the diff housing. The maintenance fitter immediately got out from under the crane and was not injured.

- Whilst moving a pack of sleepers at the dragline shutdown pad, a rigger severed the tip of his left hand middle finger when it got caught between the lifting chain and the sleepers.
- A driller's offsider unscrewed the cap on a fuel tank to inspect the fuel level. He neglected to equalise the fuel tank to the fuel pod causing the 3 inch cam lock to burst off under pressure and hit him in the face. The operator sustained serious injuries.

Vehicle – Collision (19)

- A dump truck operator sustained cuts and bruises when he drove his truck into a bund, causing it to roll onto its side.
- Whilst exiting the workshop area, a loader collided with a stationary Toyota tray-back, which was parked approximately 5m around the corner and down the decline from the workshop. The loader operator did not see the LV or respond to the sounding proximity alarm. The light vehicle sustained significant front end damage but no-one was injured.
- A light vehicle was travelling behind an underground loader down the ramp, when it pulled out to overtake. The LV was nearly hit by a haul truck travelling in the opposite direction which had assumed the LV was an escort vehicle for the loader.

Vehicle – Loss of Control (28)

- Whilst driving a dump truck along a straight stretch of haul road, the driver lost control of the vehicle when he leaned over to find his water bottle. The RDT ran into a bund wall and came to stop. There was no major damage to the equipment, nor injuries.
- The driver of a dump truck sustained soft tissue injuries when wet, sticky coal held up in the tray of the truck causing the front wheels to lift off the ground, before dropping back to ground.
- A dump truck slid, and spun 90 degrees, on a recently watered haul road. The truck stopped when it hit the bund.
- A road train hauling coal ran into a berm when the operator failed to correct on a left hand bend. Both trailers rolled and detached from the prime mover at the turntable. The driver suffered cuts to his forehead and a bruised shoulder.
- A Dump Truck incurred minor damage when it slid on the wet road surface of a haul road and rolled onto its side.

Explosion (2)

- Mid shift firing occurred at an underground mine, before all workers were cleared to a safe area. No-one was injured.

Fire (15)

- A steering circuit oil filter on a dump truck worked loose, spaying oil onto a turbo and causing a small fire. The fire was extinguished by auto fire suppression. This incident occurred twice in one week and, on inspection, two others in the fleet were found to be loose.

Electrical (20)

- Two electricians were using an electric crimping machine (similar to an energpac) to crimp dragline armature cables, when they received an electric shock. The extension lead had a faulty earth wire causing the crimper case to become live.

- Whilst wheeling towards the boot end, a Shuttle Car ran over its supply cable causing the cable to pull in half, exposing conductors and causing open arcing. Electrical protection acted as required.
- A Franna Crane, operated by a contractor, was transporting a cyclone cluster to the workshop. As the Franna Crane was passing under the 66kv power lines, a flashover occurred between the top of the boom of the crane and the powerlines.

Other (4)

- The driver of front end loader suffered an epileptic seizure. The loader was stationary at the time. The driver had previously reported a seizure whilst at work and had been allowed to continue driving heavy machinery.

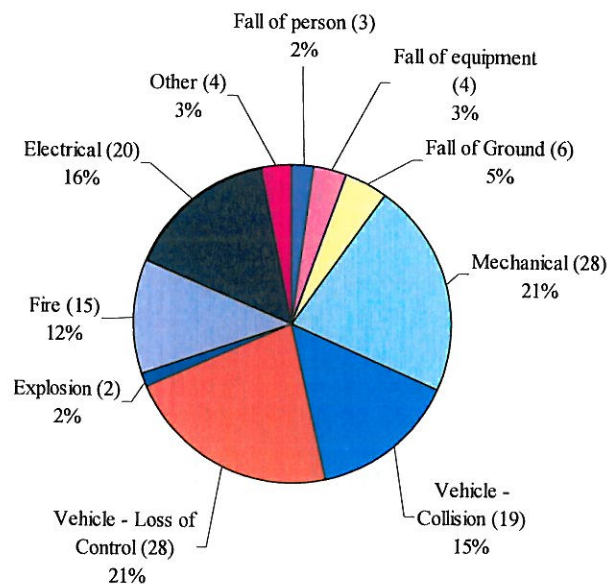


Figure 1 July 2010 Incidents (total 100) by Category

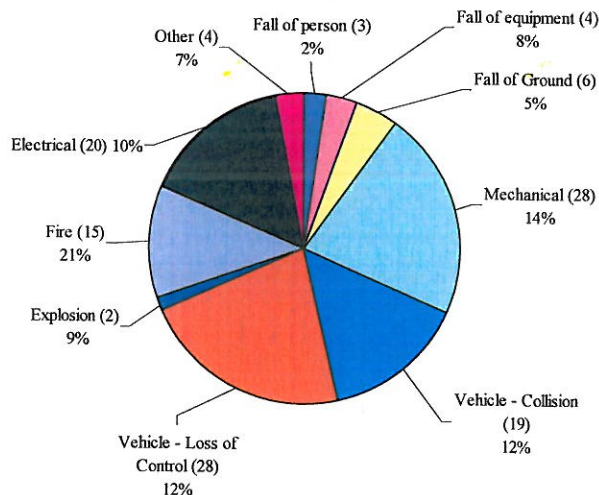


Figure 2 YTD 2009/2010 Incidents (total 100) by Category