

Mines Inspectorate
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Safety alert 204
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Machinery Operating Zones

Mine Type: Coal Mine - Underground

Incident: Another high potential incident involving a person on foot and a shuttlecar has occurred in an underground coal mine. A person was standing alongside a shuttle car talking to the driver during loading operations, despite the area being designated a 'No Go' zone. The shuttle car driver informed the person that the shuttle car was to be moved outbye. During the outbye movement, the shuttle car started to slide towards the person standing alongside. The driver appeared to counteract the sideways movement by turning the steering wheel in the opposite direction, which caused the rear of the shuttle car to swing towards the pedestrian and the coal rib. Several of the face crew and the pedestrian yelled to the driver to stop. Fortunately, the shuttle car did not hit the pedestrian.

Equipment: Shuttle car

Hazard: Personnel standing in machinery operating zones.

Cause: Non compliance with designated 'No Go' zones.

COMMENTS:

All personnel entering a face production zone are to inform the ERZ Controller before entering the zone and also advise of their intentions while in the zone. 'No Go' and 'Restricted Zones' are to be observed by all personnel at all times.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

All underground coal mines are to review their machinery operating zones. 'No Go' and 'Restricted Zones' procedures must be reinforced to all personnel who proceed underground.

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Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety alert. Any such advice supplied to site should reach those who require it, and it should also be placed on the mine notice boards.

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