



SAFETY ALERT

Fatal truck accident at quarry

INCIDENT

A truck driver was fatally injured at a quarry when the truck he was driving failed to negotiate a corner and rolled down an embankment.

CIRCUMSTANCE

The incident occurred towards the end of the working shift at approximately 4:15pm.

After the truck was loaded by an excavator at the working face it travelled down the haulroad towards the quarry's dump hopper to unload. As the truck was descending the haulroad it failed to negotiate a corner and drove over the edge of an embankment eventually coming to rest some 20m below. The driver was ejected from the cabin during the accident. The truck was of the centre articulated type.

INVESTIGATION

The Lower Hunter Police investigated and concluded that the incident was an accident and that it would be referred to the NSW Department of Primary Industries for investigation. The incident is currently being investigated by the special Investigation Unit within the Department. Once finalised, a report will be prepared for the Coroner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All mines should immediately review their haulroad operations including:

- Safety of haulroads in all conditions (wet dry, dusty etc);
- safe working limits (working grade and cross grade) of the mine mobile fleet;
- fit for purpose barriers, such as bunding or windrows are in place to prevent uncontrolled mobile plant going over embankments; and
- lines of sight for truck drivers are clear. Hazards are required to be addressed if there is potential for impaired vision due to fog, sunlight or other factors.

In addition, the Department recommends that all mines should ensure the following systems and procedures are in place.

- Mobile plant operators are regularly reminded of correct speeds, gear selection and the use of equipment retarders when descending.
- Seatbelts are fitted in accordance with MDG 15 'Guidelines for mobile and transportable equipment for use in mines'.
- Seatbelts are worn where fitted.
- Regular assessment of mobile plant against all provisions in MDG 15.
- Regular review of fit for purpose and effectiveness of safety critical components over their lifecycle including drive, braking, steering and emergency systems.
- Operators receive training in emergency procedures.
- Mobile plant is fitted with operator protective structures in AS 2294, 'Earth moving machinery – protective structures' including rollover protection ROP's and falling object protection FOP's as appropriate.

Note: AS 2294 states the primary purpose of ROP's and FOP's is to reduce the possibility of an operator, who is wearing a seatbelt in accordance with AS 2664, from being crushed or otherwise injured should the machine roll over or be struck by a falling object.

The Department may issue further advice about this incident.

Signed



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