

SAFETY ALERT



CHILD FATALLY INJURED BY TRUCK

This Safety Alert replaces Safety Alert SA99-17 issued on 24 September 1999.

INCIDENT

A preschool age child was fatally injured on a small open cut mine. The child had accompanied his father, a haulage contractor, to the mine. The child had got out of his father's truck and, while the father's attention was focussed on covering the load, it appears the child went across to another truck which was being loaded nearby. The truck, a road train tipper, moved forwards a short distance to allow the rear trailer to be loaded. The child was found seriously injured some metres behind the rear of the second trailer and died shortly afterwards.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTIVE ACTION

- **People who are in charge of work places are responsible in law to ensure no harm comes to any person on their site, including visitors.**
- It is noted that haulage contractors may have children with them from time to time. This can expose children to potentially dangerous situations.
- Mining operations, even very small operations, are unpredictable and potentially very hazardous places. Accordingly special precautions are required to protect visitors in general and in the case of children a particularly high duty of care exists.
- **Mine managers have a duty of care under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983* to ensure the safety of all persons on the mine site, including children brought onto the site by their parents.**
- The Department of Mineral Resources does not condone the presence of children on mine sites.
- Those in charge of the mine site are responsible and accountable for all persons who enter the site. The duty of care under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* is enlarged if children are brought onto a mine site.

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