



MINE SAFETY

INVESTIGATION UNIT

**Serious Spinal Injury – remote controlled
miner – 12 July 2004**



Serious Spinal Injury - Paraplegia

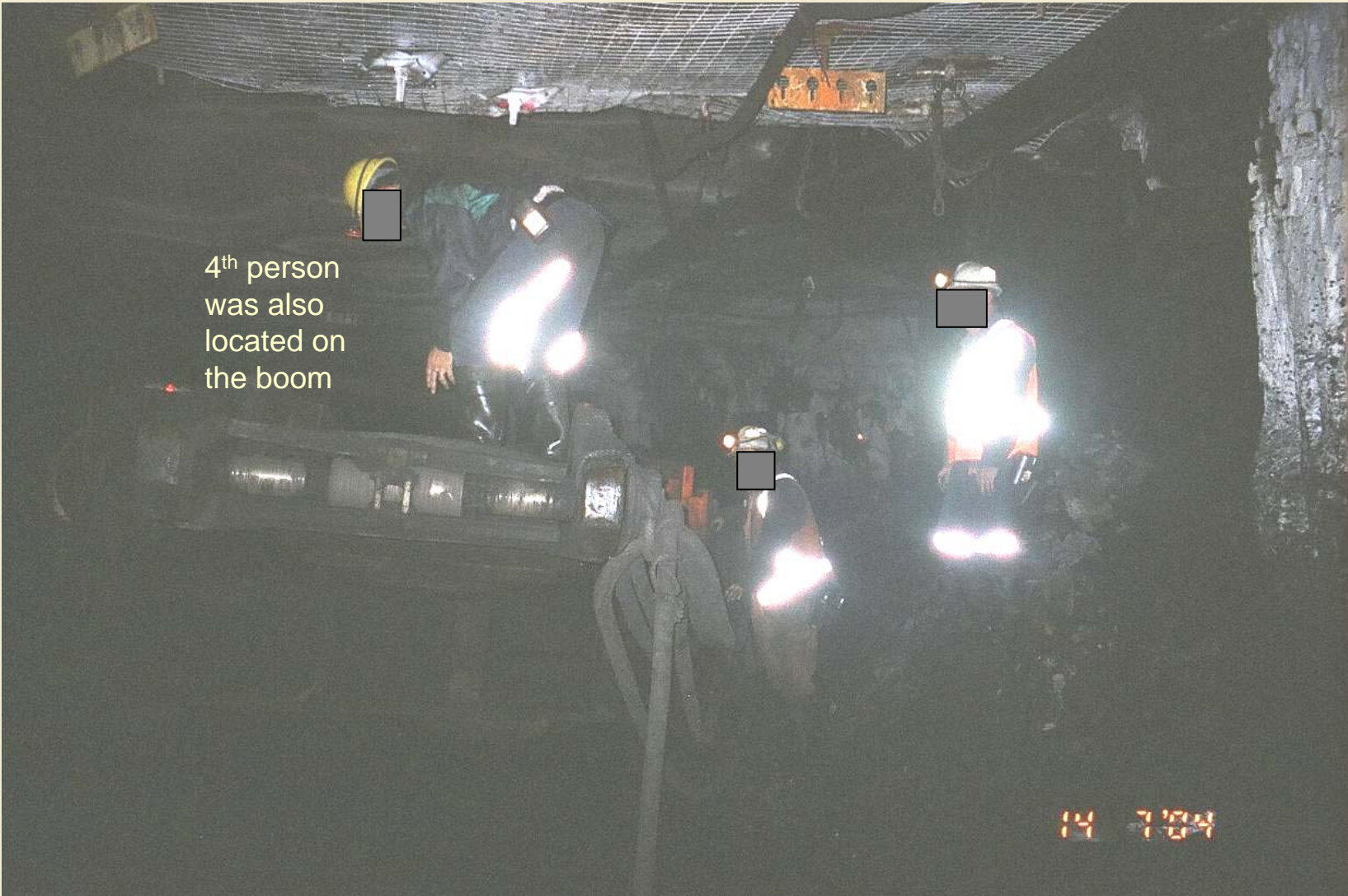
- Underground Coal Mine near Lithgow NSW
- Person riding on conveyor boom of continuous miner forced into the roof
- Resulted in Paraplegia



Causal Factors

- Inexperienced workmen working with experienced workmen moving a continuous miner out of a floor brushing trench
- Handling cable of the CM hung from the roof and trailing back over machine
- CM pivoted on uneven floor
- 2 people were within 'no standing zone' of CM
- 2 people were riding on the back of CM boom

Approximate location of persons simulated post incident.



4th person
was also
located on
the boom



Best Practice

- ‘Control Zones’ and ‘No Standing Zones’ must be observed by all and enforced by mine management and supervisors
- ‘Isolation Rules’ must be observed by all and enforced by mine management and supervisors



Related Published Resources

- AS 4240-1994 Remote controls for mining equipment
- MDG 5002 Use of remote controlled equipment
- Safety Alert SA 04-16 Serious spinal injury
- Safety Alert SA 01-09 Unplanned movement of remote controlled mining machinery
- Investigation report available from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety