

INVESTIGATION INFORMATION RELEASE

AUGUST 2019

Continuous miner slides into worker

Incident date: 30 May 2019

Event: Serious injury at an underground coal mine

Location: Ashton Coal Mine, Camberwell NSW

Overview

A worker suffered shoulder and wrist injuries when he was struck by a continuous miner that slid down the sloping grade of a longwall development roadway. The worker was provided first aid and transported to hospital for treatment. The NSW Resources Regulator has begun an investigation into the incident.

Figure 1 Position of continuous miner after uncontrolled movement



The mine

Yancoal Mining Services Pty Ltd is the mine operator of Ashton Mine. The mine is at Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell about 14 kilometres northwest of Singleton in the Hunter Valley region of NSW.

Ashton Mine is an underground coal mine that extracts about 3.2 million tonnes per annum of coal using longwall extraction. The coal is conveyed to the surface, where it is processed and transported by rail to the Port of Newcastle for export.

The incident

About 10pm on 30 May 2019, a worker suffered shoulder and wrist injuries when he was struck by a continuous miner being operated on a longwall development roadway at the mine. The roadway had a sloping grade and the conditions were wet and muddy.

The worker was part of the mine's development team that had been operating a continuous miner to trim a section of floor along the roadway. At the time of the incident the worker was standing behind the continuous miner repositioning its cabling. The worker was operating the continuous miner via remote control.

While attempting to tram forward, the continuous miner lost traction, sliding backwards down the sloped roadway impacting with the worker.

Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety associated with the operation of mobile plant in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulations.

Mine operators must have effective safety management systems in place and identify risks associated with the operation of mobile plant. In managing these risks, mine operators must have regard to the work environment, operating surface conditions and the possibility of unplanned movements in areas where mobile plant is operated in proximity to workers and operating parameters of the equipment being used.

Consideration must be given to identifying, implementing and maintaining appropriate no-go zones and separation distances between workers and mobile plant.

Mine roadways should not exceed plant operating parameters.

The investigation

The Regulator responded to the incident. An investigation has been launched to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The mine operator is cooperating with the investigation. A report will be published when the investigation is concluded.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- Safety Bulletin – [Mineworkers injured in machinery crush zones](#)
- Safety Bulletin – [Operator behaviour around remote control equipment](#)

About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a high potential incident in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (August 2019). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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