

SAFETY ALERT



SERIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING RAISEBORER HOLE PROTECTIVE CANOPY

INCIDENT

A mining contractor received severe multiple injuries after being struck by a fall of ground from a raiseborer hole.

The injured person was taken to hospital in a very serious condition.

CIRCUMSTANCES

It is understood that work was being carried out to detach the reamer head from a raiseborer, following the development of a 4 metre, internal, vertical ventilation shaft.

This procedure involved lowering the reamer head to the bottom of the shaft. A loader was used to hold a steel hole cover in position below the collar of the raise to provide overhead protection to persons working on the cutters.

The injured person was attempting to free a "burn-out ring" on the drill string, when a fall of rock hit the hole cover. The hole cover was deformed and partially penetrated by falling material. The impact of the fall of rock apparently forced the cover down towards the injured person. It is believed that the downward movement of the hole cover caused the loader to pivot at the front wheel.

INVESTIGATION

The Investigation Unit of the Department is investigating the accident.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Industry is urged to review the adequacy of the safe operating procedures which it is using to protect employees working in or about development raises from risks associated with possible rockfalls.

By way of example, review measures may entail examining the adequacy of overhead protection from falling rock and the use of mobile equipment for supporting such overhead protection.

APPROVED

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