

# SAFETY ALERT



## FATALITY RESULTING FROM A CONTINUOUS MINER CRUSHING INJURY

### INCIDENT

A mechanical tradesperson was fatally injured as a result of the automatic operation of a continuous miner's stabiliser cylinder whilst re-installing a conveyor boom assembly.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

Whilst connecting an elevating hydraulic cylinder to the conveyor boom, power was applied to the machine to assist with the installation of the top pin of the elevating cylinder.

Upon operation of the hydraulic pump motor, the automatic operation of the stabiliser cylinder caught the tradesperson across the legs resulting in the fatal injury.

### INVESTIGATION

An investigation is in progress to determine the factors involved leading to the accident.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

Managers and Engineers of Coal Mines should conduct an audit of all machinery where procedures require power to be applied to effect the installation, maintenance and removal of equipment.

Prior to any maintenance work being performed Supervisors should ensure appropriate isolation procedures exist and are fully implemented to ensure maintenance personnel cannot be inadvertently put at risk by the unplanned operation of machinery.

When preparing isolation procedures reference should be made to appropriate Australian standards for example AS 4024.1 "Safeguarding of machinery Part:1 General Principles", AS 4804 "Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems - General Guidelines on Principles, Systems and Supporting Technologies" and AS 2671 "Fluid Power - Hydraulic Systems and Components". Reference is also made to the Departmental Guideline MDG 1010 "Risk Management Handbook for the Mining Industry".

For further information contact Gordon Jervis, Inspector of Mechanical Engineering, on (02) 4954 7899 or mobile 0418 195 655.

B. R. McKensy  
CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES

Report No: SA 99/12  
File No: C99/0467  
Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1999  
Prepared by: G. Jervis