MINE SAFETY

INVESTIGATION UNIT

Fatal Incident – R/C Loader – 09 Jan 2007

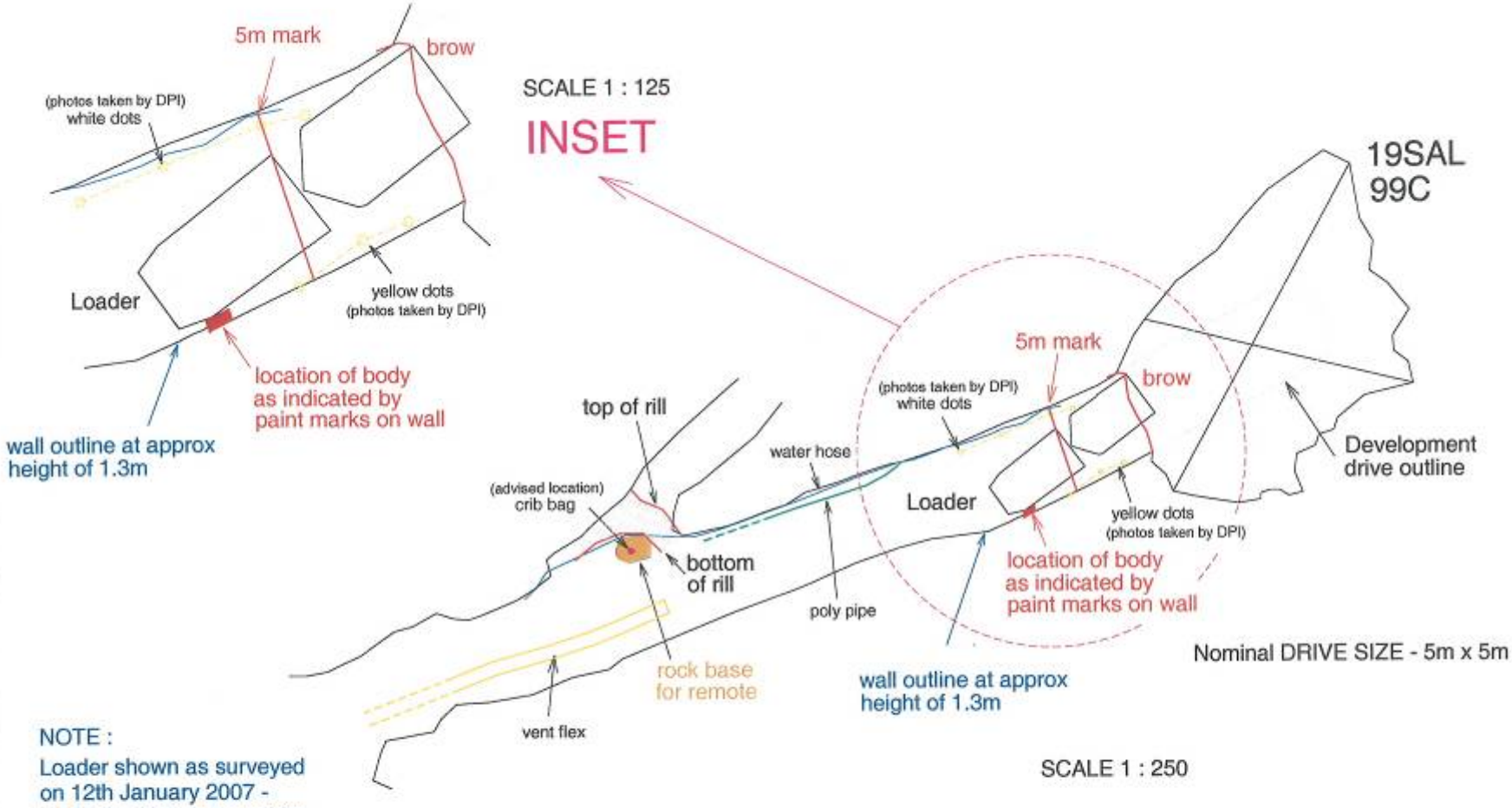
Fatal Incident – R/C Loader

- 09 January 2007 – Western NSW
- Large underground metalliferous mine
- Production area – stope drawpoint
- 30 year old mine worker
- 4 years experience at the mine

Overview

- Mine worker using a remote controlled loader to empty a long hole stope.
- He was attempting to clean around a large boulder in the stope so that it could be fired.
- He was working alone and unobserved
- He was found trapped between the loader and the wall of the drive.


JAN 10 2007


5m mark
brow
(photos taken by DPI)
white dots
Loader
yellow dots
(photos taken by DPI)
location of body
as indicated by
paint marks on wall
wall outline at approx
height of 1.3m
SCALE 1 : 125
INSET
19SAL
99C
5m mark
brow
(photos taken by DPI)
white dots
top of rill
water hose
Development
drive outline
(advised location)
crib bag
Loader
yellow dots
(photos taken by DPI)
bottom
of rill
location of body
as indicated by
paint marks on wall
poly pipe
Nominal DRIVE SIZE - 5m x 5m
rock base
for remote
wall outline at approx
height of 1.3m
vent flex
SCALE 1 : 250
NOTE :
Loader shown as surveyed on 12th January 2007 - loader had been moved for body removal and placed close to original position
Minimum distance between bash plate and wall at time of survey was 127mm
0
5
10
15
20
25
Length in metres
perilya
PERILYA BROKEN HILL LIMITED
Scene of Fatality - 9th January 2007
19 LEVEL - 19SAL99C DRAWPOINT
PLAN VIEW
Surveyed
B.J.G./S.VM
Drafted
P.D.O.
Approved
Date
12.1.2007
Date
15.1.2007
Date

Causal Factors

- Absence of any engineered controls to prevent the operator from approaching the loader while operating.
- Insufficient measures to ensure that documented procedures were being followed in practice.
- Reliance on procedural risk controls over higher order controls.

Best Practice

Where line of sight operations are unavoidable…

- Physical means to ensure operator cannot operate the machine when out of the safe area. *(eg tether transmitter to safe location.)*
- Laser beam barriers or similar to detect intrusion into unsafe area and automatic shutdown.
- Training and supervision levels to ensure safe procedures are entrenched in the workplace.