

SAFETY ALERT

DATE: September 2020

Operating mobile plant – incidents and near misses

This safety alert provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

Issue

Several incidents have been reported to the Resources Regulator recently where people have been exposed to significant health and safety risks due to collisions, rollovers, and interaction of mobile plant within surface operations. The severity of the outcomes of these incidents have ranged from a near miss to minor injuries of personnel involved. The potential outcome of all these incidents however could have been severe and/or fatal injuries.

Circumstances

The Resources Regulator has identified several contributing factors in each of these incidents. As highlighted in the video (see link below), the operation of vehicles - specifically the interaction between vehicles of all size and types - is a major risk in surface mining.

Watch video: [Hazards in surface mining operations: Roads or other vehicle operating areas](#)

Recommendations

It is recommended that mine operators ensure:

- all mining areas including roadways, intersections and park up areas are designed, constructed and maintained to safely manage:



Figure 1 Light vehicle rollover on mine rehabilitation

- interactions between mobile plant and light vehicles
 - interactions between mobile plant and equipment
 - interactions between mobile plant and fixed plant and structures
 - interactions between vehicles, mobile plant and pedestrians.
- pre-use inspections are conducted on vehicles and equipment, and all defects are reported and repaired
 - workers are trained and competent to operate vehicles and equipment
 - vehicle and equipment operators attend work, physically and mentally capable of performing their duties (fitness for work)
 - vehicles and equipment are operated within their design limits
 - vehicles and equipment are operated according to the environment (drive to conditions)
 - positive communication (the use of equipment numbers) is always applied when operating vehicles and equipment.



Figure 1 Light vehicle rollover in mining area



Figure 2 Contact between haul truck and grader

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety alert and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

Visit our [website](#) to:

- find more safety alerts and bulletins
- use our searchable safety database.

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