

Safety Bulletin

Date: October 2024

Recent increase in vehicle interactions

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

Issue

The Resources Regulator has noticed with some considerable concern, an increasing trend in vehicle interactions over the past 6 months throughout all sectors of the mining industry in NSW.

Circumstances

Vehicle interactions have shown an increasing trend throughout the mining industry across the state as evidenced by the 46 incident notifications that have been reported to the Regulator.

Investigation

Of the notifications made, 45% were from surface coal mines, 26% from surface metalliferous and quarry operations and 32% from both underground coal and metalliferous mines. A review of these incidents has indicated that the predominant causes have been a lack or inadequate communication between people involved in the incidents, as well as a lack of situational awareness on the part of operators of equipment involved in the incidents. Instances were also noted where procedures were not followed and equipment had malfunctioned.

Recommendations

Mine operators must

- Develop and implement a structured approach to vehicle interaction management, including benchmarking against leading practice. This may include the review of work conducted by focus groups, such as EMESRT and other key organisations
- Ensure a systematic and consultative approach to the identification, assessment and control of vehicle interaction hazards, including a scheduled review process that checks controls before they fail
- Consider using higher order controls using the hierarchy of controls such as fitting proximity detection devices or the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to provide speed

Safety Bulletin SB24-08

monitoring of vehicles to generate alarms where speed limits are exceeded to alert the operator and others

- Have a system in place to audit the level of compliance to positive communication protocols to ensure they remain effective. This can be done by direct observation by supervisors or the review of radio audio logs.
- Have a system in place to ensure vehicles are maintained fit for purpose.
- Implement, maintain and monitor equipment speed monitoring systems in vehicles to alert the operator where speed limits are exceeded, as well as supervisors conducting spot checks on intersection, crest and ramp speeds and intervene where non-compliance is identified.
- Encourage workers to report on areas of non-compliant roadways and intersections to supervisors.
- Encourage workers to report all vehicle incidents and near misses.

Workers must

- Report areas of non-compliant roadways and intersections to their supervisor
- Report all vehicle incidents
- Report near misses in accordance with site requirements to their supervisor
- Make positive communication in accordance with site protocols
- Comply so far as reasonably able with any reasonable instruction that is given by mine operators

Figure 1: Vehicle collision in an underground metalliferous operation



Safety Bulletin SB24-08

Figure 2: Interaction with the cab from reversing truck tray



Figure 3: On the surface of an underground coal mine



Note: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety bulletin and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety bulletin 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, with a selection of relevant publications provided below:

- [Safety alert SA24-04 Haul truck rear strut injures worker](#)
- [Safety alert SA24-02 Vehicle interaction in an underground coal mine](#)
- [Safety alert SA23-01 Unintended movement of haul truck](#)
- [Safety bulletin SB23-04 Overtaking or passing equipment in mining areas](#)
- [Safety bulletin SB24-01 Bulldozer incidents increase](#)
- [Safety bulletin SB22-07 Collisions on overburden dumps](#)

Use our searchable safety database for relevant documents such as:

Safety Bulletin SB24-08

- [Enforceable undertaking accepted in relation to Maules Creek truck collision](#)
- Also, search for numerous presentations provided at the [2023 Collision Avoidance Forum](#)

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