

INVESTIGATION INFORMATION RELEASE

DATE: 31 JANUARY 2020

Event: Dangerous incident

Location: Ravensworth Open Cut Coal Mine, Muswellbrook, NSW

Light vehicle drives over open edge

Overview

A worker drove a light vehicle off a 12 metre bench. The worker was able to free himself from the vehicle and call for help. He suffered minor injuries.

Figure 1 The position of the light vehicle



The mine

Ravensworth Open Cut Coal Mine, which includes Ravensworth North Open Cut is operated by Ravensworth Operations Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Glencore. The mine is between Singleton and Muswellbrook in the NSW Hunter Valley.

The incident

A worker was completing clearance duties before an overburden blast. The worker drove the light vehicle through an opening in the bund, which was opened before the blast to allow two drill rigs to tram from the blast area.

The worker continued driving toward what he believed was an access ramp, but instead, drove over the edge of a bench. The light vehicle fell about 12 metres before hitting the ground, then rolling onto its roof. The worker freed himself and used a hand-held radio to call for help. The worker was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital. He was later transported to another hospital by helicopter.

The investigation

The Regulator responded to the incident. The Regulator has commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The mine operator is cooperating with the investigation.

Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety associated with the movement of mobile plant, in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulations.

Mine operators must have effective safety management systems in place and identify risks associated with roads and other vehicle operating areas, as well as the operation and movement of mobile plant. In managing these risks, mine operators must have regard to the design, layout, construction and maintenance of all roads and other areas used by mobile plant.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- MDG 15 – [Mobile and transportable plant for use on mines and petroleum sites](#)
- Investigation Information release - [Fatality at Snapper Mineral Sands Mine](#)

- Investigation Information Release – [Light vehicle crushed by D11 dozer](#)

About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a serious incident in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

Go to resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au to:

- learn more about our work on major investigations and emergency response
- view our publications on other major investigations
- sign up to receive mine safety news.

© State of New South Wales through the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020.

This publication is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in an unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal use or for non-commercial use within your organisation. To copy, adapt, publish, distribute or commercialise any of this publication you will need to seek permission from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

CM9 reference	DOC20/106384
Mine safety reference	IIR20-03
Date published	11 February 2020
Authorised by	Acting Chief Investigator Major Safety Investigations