

# INVESTIGATION INFORMATION RELEASE

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 2020

## Fatality – not work related

**Incident date:** 21 August 2020

**Event:** Non-work related death

**Location:** Springvale Colliery, Lidsdale NSW

### Overview

A worker was found unconscious, slumped over the controls of an idling load haul dump (LHD) machine in the main travel road of the underground workings at Springvale Colliery. First aid was administered by mine workers and later by NSW Ambulance, however, attempts to resuscitate the worker were unsuccessful.

The NSW Resources Regulator investigated the incident and considers the death of the worker to be non-work-related.

*Figure 1 The LHD and basket*



## The mine

Springvale Colliery is an underground coal mine located at the Castlereagh Highway, Lidsdale in the Western Coalfields about 14 kilometres northwest of Lithgow, NSW.

The mine operator is Springvale Coal Pty Limited.

## The incident

At 11:45 am on 21 August 2020, a 58-year-old experienced mine worker was found unresponsive and slumped over the driver controls of an idling LHD loader in the main travel road of the underground workings at Springvale Colliery. The machine was fitted with a front man basket which was in the lowered position, with the front edge of the basket on the ground. The front wheels of the machine were lifted off the ground and the rear wheels were spinning. The roadway, prior to and at the LHD, indicated that the LHD had not contacted the sides of the roadway and had become stationary in the centre of the road.

Nearby workers noticed smoke and went to investigate, locating the worker who was unconscious within the LHD. They removed the worker from the machine and commenced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). An emergency response was activated. The worker was transported to the surface where he was tended by NSW Ambulance. Attempts to resuscitate the worker were unsuccessful.

## Investigation

The Regulator conducted an investigation into the circumstances of the worker's death. As a result of investigation, inquiries undertaken and information provided by the Coroner, the worker's death is not considered to be work-related.

## Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety 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 should have effective health assessment programs in place to ensure workers are healthy and fit to work at mining operations and in mine environments. Regular medical examinations should be undertaken by qualified medical practitioners.

Persons conducting a business or undertaking should provide information to workers about healthy lifestyles and fitness-for-work programs.

## Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- [Health monitoring](#)
- [Health control plan fact sheets](#)
- [Coal mine workers order No. 43](#)

## About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a non-work-related fatality in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

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- learn more about our work on causal investigations and emergency response
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