

DATE: DECEMBER 2018

Tyre falls from tyre handling forklift

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

Issue

A worker died at an open cut mine in the Hunter Valley when a deflated heavy service vehicle tyre fell from tyre handler grabs at the mine's wash bay on 3 November 2018 during cleaning works. The Resources Regulator [Investigation information release](#) was published about the incident.

Investigation

Investigations are ongoing.

Recommendations

Mine operators should:

1. Review their operational risk assessment for tyre handling equipment and operations. Site condition, history and operator experience should be included in the assessment.
2. Assess the method of pressure retention of hydraulic tyre grabs to confirm adequate pressure is applied and maintained once a tyre is held in the grab.
3. Implement a method for operators to confirm adequate pressure is applied to retain grip of the tyre.
4. Determine the minimum clamp pressure required to safely transport and hold tyres. Consideration should be given to the:
 - tyre size
 - tyre pressure
 - tyre condition (new, worn, damage)
 - debris on the tyre (such as mud, dirty, lubricants)
 - water/lubrication due to cleaning activities
 - condition of the teeth on the grab
 - orientation of the tyre.
5. Implement maintenance plans that consider the recommendations of the original equipment manufacturer of both the forklift and the tyre handler attachment.
6. Confirm that no-go zones are in place and consider the risk of a dropped or falling tyre.

7. Review training packages and competency assessments to confirm that operators are trained and competent in the use of tyre-handling equipment.

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 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 notice board.

Go to resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/safety to:

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2018). 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 and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

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CM9 reference	DOC18/993880
Mine safety reference	SA18-16
Date published	21 December 2018
Authorised by	Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector