

SAFETY ALERT

DATE: February 2021

Unattended haul truck rolls 65 metres

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

Issue

An unattended CAT793D haul truck rolled 65-metres from the workshop designated parking line and collided with a pump and infrastructure at the wash bay.

Circumstances

The incident occurred on 10th January 2021.

An operator parked a CAT793D haul truck on the workshop deadline for a defect repair. The truck was parked across a parking hump and the engine was switched off. Soon after the operator disembarked from the vehicle, it started rolling backward. The operator unsuccessfully attempted to stop the runaway vehicle. After rolling 65 metres, the truck collided with a pump and associated infrastructure at the heavy vehicle wash bay.

Figure 1 Truck collision with wash bay pump



Investigation

Initial investigations at the site have identified the following:

- The park-up hump at the workshop deadline was not constructed to the site standard.
- The post-incident inspection of the truck cab found that the park brake had not been selected.
- The fail-safe park brake mechanism did not activate when the truck's ignition was switched off.

Further investigation on the vehicle found that a solenoid on one of the park brake valves failed and the air pressure did not bleed from the park brake circuit. This resulted in the park brake not being engaged automatically. The remainder of the fleet onsite was inspected and the same fault was also identified on another vehicle.

The investigation is ongoing.

Figure 2 Condition of stable parking hump



Recommendations

It is recommended that mine operators ensure:

- All mobile plant park-up areas are designed, constructed and maintained to enable safe and stable parking.
- Work area inspections verify that mobile plant park-up areas are constructed and maintained to the standard.
- Brake testing regimes on mobile plant includes testing fail-safe mechanisms and interlocks.

Mine workers must ensure they apply the park brake prior to exiting mobile plant and must not rely on safety interlocks or other means of application of the park brake.

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.

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CM9 reference	DOC21/35815
Mine safety reference	SA-21-02
Date published	2/02/2021
Authorised by	Acting Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector