

SAFETY ALERT



LIGHTNING RIDGE MINER INJURED BY UNGUARDED MACHINERY

INCIDENT

An opal miner lost a foot when it was caught by a drive shaft that was not protected by guards.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The opal miner was using an agitator drum from a modified, ready-mixed concrete delivery truck to separate opal from mined dirt. The agitator shaft was driven by a diesel engine. The miner's trouser leg was caught by bolts on the drive shaft.

INVESTIGATION

The miner's trouser leg was caught by bolts on the drive shaft due to the method of operation and because no guards were fitted.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Mines Inspection Act 1901, General Rule 2000 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, machinery must be fitted with guards to prevent limbs or clothing getting tangled in drive systems.
- Owners, lease holders and claim holders have a duty of care to protect any people working on the lease or claim (including themselves) from injury.
- Guarding requirements are described in General Rule 2000 and Australian Standard AS4024 1-1996. The Mines Inspection Act 1901 and the OHS Act 2000 describe the duty of care and the duty to provide a safe workplace.

RECOMMENDATION

Examine all your equipment. Fit guards to protect people from getting caught in moving parts.

For more information contact:

David Howell
NSW Department of Mineral Resources
Lot 60 Morilla St
Lightning Ridge, NSW 2834.
Tel: (02) 6829 0678

For advice, contact your local office of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Regan".

R.Regan
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAFETY OPERATIONS