



SAFETY ALERT

Seatbelts Must Be Worn

INCIDENTS

A number of incidents where seatbelts were not worn have occurred that have resulted in serious consequences, including a workplace fatality.

All incidents involved mobile equipment in **both above-ground and below-ground** application. In all incidents seatbelts were **not** worn.



The failure to wear a seatbelt can lead to expulsion from the vehicle or severe injury from lack of restraint within the cabin.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Circumstances have varied from the injured person being thrown out of the mobile equipment as a result of sudden impact, to people being injured as the result of equipment rollover. In all cases the injured people were not restrained within the operator's or passenger's compartments. Other factors contributing to operator/passenger injuries include lack of guarding and overhead protection.

INVESTIGATION

All items of mobile equipment and people concerned experienced unexpected movement. These circumstances included:

- Mobile equipment tipover
- Mobile equipment rollover
- Mobile equipment sudden impact (vehicle collisions included)
- Mobile equipment sudden jolt (for example, going over an unexpected ridge or lump of material on roadway)
- Mobile equipment sudden acceleration

In all cases, drivers were competent for the equipment they were operating.



With no seatbelt, expulsion from the cabin can lead to injury and/or death through being crushed by the equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For all mines using mobile equipment:

- Review Mobile Equipment Operational Risk Assessments and Safe Work Procedures to minimise risk in the workplace
- Ensure seatbelts or appropriate restraints are fitted to the mobile equipment
- Ensure mobile equipment seatbelt and anchorage point engineering complies with Australian Standard 2664 or ISO 6683.
- Inform the workforce through tool box and safety meetings of the hazards associated with not wearing seatbelts while driving or being a passenger in mobile equipment
- Conduct regular workplace inspections and task observations to ensure compliance with the correct use of seatbelts

Further information on operator/passenger restraint, guarding and protection will be the subject of a safety bulletin.

Signed

Rob Regan
DIRECTOR
MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

View more safety alerts at www.minerals.nsw.gov.au. If you would like to receive safety alerts by email, send your details to safetyalert@minerals.nsw.gov.au.