



SAFETY ALERT

Miner fatally injured in remote controlled loader incident

INCIDENT

A miner sustained fatal crush injuries at an underground metalliferous mine.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The miner was operating an underground loader by remote control in a production drawpoint. Preliminary investigations indicate that while the loader was at the drawpoint brow, the operator was positioned between the loader and the sidewall. The loader appears to have moved towards him and he was pinned against a sidewall resulting in fatal crush injuries.

INVESTIGATION

A detailed investigation has been initiated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries' Mine Investigations Unit and a report will be prepared for the coroner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific recommendations are not available until the investigation nears completion.

All mines utilising remote controlled mining equipment should review their standards and procedures against MDG 5002 'Guideline for the Use of Remote Controlled Mining Equipment in Underground Metalliferous Mines' September 2006 (published by the NSW Department of Primary Industries).

Particular reference should be made to considering:-

- The use of tele-remote operation in preference to 'line of sight' operated equipment.
- Risk assessments that identify all significant hazards.
- The location of the operator whilst the equipment is in remote control mode.

- The utilisation of barrier systems that meet the requirements of AS 4024 – ‘Safety of Machinery’.
- Compliance to AS 4240 – ‘Remote Controls for Mining Equipment’

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 notice board.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Moss', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Moss
Manager Central West Region
MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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