

SAFETY BULLETIN

DATE: OCTOBER 2019

Dozer incidents increase despite warnings

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

Issue

One worker has died and several others have been exposed to significant health and safety risks in recent incidents featuring dozer operations at NSW mine sites.

These incidents included rollovers, a near miss over a drop off and a rollover caused by off-centre engagement of a ripper. One worker died in a collision between a dozer and a light vehicle south of Broken Hill in August 2019 (refer to [Investigation Information Release](#)) and most recently a dozer operator reversed over a parked light vehicle.

These incidents have continued to occur despite the NSW Resources Regulator issuing a warning only seven months ago highlighting an increase in the number of dozer-related incidents (refer to [Safety Bulletin SB19-01](#)).

Circumstances

Dozer rollovers and collisions can occur in all phases of mining operations, but incidents that have recently been reported to the Regulator show the highest rate occurs when dozers are reversing and working on cross grades.

Figure 1 A near miss over a drop off at a coal mine in the Hunter Valley



Figure 2 Dozer rolled while reversing at a metalliferous mine



Figure 3 A dozer reversed over a light vehicle at a surface coal mine



Recommendations

It is recommended mine operators ensure that:

1. planning minimises a requirement for dozers to work on cross grades
2. supervisors regularly carry out inspections to ensure stability of the work area and identify any unprotected drop offs

3. training for dozer operators emphasises the importance of:
 - 3.1. descending steep slopes in the forward direction with the blades lowered
 - 3.2. always operating a dozer within safe gradient operating limits
 - 3.3. always maintaining rear visual awareness when reversing
4. dozer operators wear seat belts while operating the machine.
5. positive communications procedures are complied with
6. designated no-go and restricted access zones around heavy mining equipment are adhered to
7. designated light vehicle park-up areas are available in work areas

Mine operators should also consider the implementation of engineering controls such as collision avoidance and proximity detection systems.

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 bulletin should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed in the mine's common area, such as on your notice board, where appropriate.

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

CM9 reference	DOC19/851021
Mine safety reference	SB19-10
Date published	3 October 2019
Authorised by	Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector