

INVESTIGATION INFORMATION RELEASE

DATE: NOVEMBER 2020

Collision between dozer and haul truck

Incident date: 5 October 2020

Event: Injury to dozer operator at Mangoola Coal Mine

Location: Wybong (near Muswellbrook)

Overview

A haul truck collided with a dozer on a dump at the Mangoola open cut coal mine on 5 October 2020. As a result of the collision, the dozer operator sustained injuries and was transported to hospital.

Figure 1 Collision between dozer and haul truck



The mine

Mangoola Open Cut Mine in an open cut coal operation located in Wybong, 20 kilometres west of Muswellbrook. The mine is based on a large, undeveloped coal reserve of approximately 150 million tonnes.

The mine operator is Mangoola Coal Operations Pty Limited.

The incident

The incident occurred at about 9am on Monday 5 October 2020. An experienced dozer operator was working on a tip head. A truck operator arrived at the tip head and was unsure where to unload but recalled an earlier instruction from the dozer operator to tip against the wall. The truck operator reversed to dump the load. The truck operator heard a thud and stopped the truck. The haul truck and dozer had collided.

The haul truck operator had 11 weeks industry experience and 4 weeks experience at the mine.

The dozer operator sustained soft tissue injuries and was transported to hospital for medical review.

The investigation

The NSW Resources Regulator has commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The investigation will, among other things, consider communication between the operators, training and supervision, as well as adequacy of policies and procedures relevant to the incident.

The mine operator is cooperating with the investigation.

A report will be published when the investigation is concluded.

Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators have a duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety associated with the operation of mobile plant in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulations.

Mobile plant interactions in mines is a well-known risk.

Mine operators should:

- ensure that positive communications (pos-coms) is effective between operators when haul trucks are approaching dozers working on tip heads

- engineering controls, such as proximity detection, collision avoidance systems and cameras can assist in managing the risks associated with mobile plant interactions
- review the adequacy of surface transport management plans including tip head procedures for effective radio and communications protocols
- ensure the risk controls for mobile plant interaction are being adequately monitored and verified by audit as being effective.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- MDG 15 - [Guideline for mobile and transportable plant for use at mines other than underground coal mines](#)
- Safety Bulletin SB 18-06 – [Lack of positive communications result in collisions 2018](#)
- Investigation Information release - [Fatality at Snapper Mineral Sands 2019](#)

About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a serious incident in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

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