

SAFETY ALERT



QUARRY WORKER KILLED BY FRONT END LOADER

NOTE

This preliminary Safety Alert is issued to inform industry of a significant event.

EVENT

A quarry worker was fatally injured when apparently run over by a front-end loader.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Two plant operators were going to clean clay out of the bucket of a front-end loader. They needed to go to the wash bay about 75 metres away. One operator drove the loader and the other walked.

The person driving the loader started off. After about 50 metres he stopped for a moment to adjust his seat. When he started again he looked over his shoulder and saw the other person lying on the ground behind the loader. The person appeared to have been run over by the loader.

INVESTIGATION

The Department of Mineral Resources' Investigation Unit is investigating the accident.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Management should have safe work procedures in place for people who need to approach mobile equipment. Everyone at a mine, including contractors and visitors, should be trained in the procedures.
2. No one should approach or go near operating mobile equipment unless the operator of the equipment has been contacted either by radio or signalled with a hand movement. The mobile equipment operator must show that he has seen the person. The person approaching should then wait until the operator has stopped the vehicle, opened the door and stepped out of the cabin.
3. Personnel should only ride on mobile equipment with fixed seats for that purpose.
4. Where personnel need to approach mobile equipment, safety procedures established by management should be observed at all times.
5. No-one should operate mobile equipment where there is a danger of collision with pedestrians. Operators should stop immediately and check if they see or suspect that pedestrians are anywhere near the equipment. Operators should continually look out for anyone approaching, whether on foot or in a vehicle, to ensure that a collision does not occur.

APPROVED

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