

SAFETY ALERT



NEAR MISS INCIDENT WITH RIDE-ON LAWN MOWER

INCIDENT

A mine employee received minor injuries when a John Deere 16 hp ride-on lawn mower overturned on a steep gradient and rolled over the top of him with the cutter blades rotating.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Ride-on lawn mowers are capable of inflicting serious injury, including amputation or death, if used incorrectly or not properly maintained.

Many ground maintenance tasks at mine sites are performed with this type of equipment, either by mine employees or contract personnel.

INVESTIGATION

Investigation of the incident revealed that:

- (1) The equipment had no documented inspection and maintenance schemes to ensure that it was fit for the purpose.
- (2) The mine personnel engaged in ground maintenance had no training in the operation of the equipment.
- (3) There were no documented Safe Working Procedures.
- (4) The safety switch which automatically cuts the engine out when the driver leaves the seat had been defeated.
- (5) The operator was mowing too close to a steep gradient when the incident occurred.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

This incident should not be considered any differently from other operations or maintenance activities.

Industry should assess its systems for all equipment used.

Inspection and maintenance systems should be revised if necessary to ensure that all equipment is fit for purpose.

Safe operational procedures should be developed and mine personnel and or contractors should be trained in the safe operation of all equipment.

Risk reviews should be undertaken to identify hazards to all tasks involving equipment and operators.

APPROVED

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