

SAFETY ALERT



FATALITY RESULTING FROM DROWNING

This preliminary Safety Alert has been prepared to provide all coal mines with the earliest possible advice of a fatal accident so that appropriate action can be undertaken at each mine to avoid any occurrence of a similar nature.

INCIDENT

A mineworker recently drowned after falling into the sump of a ventilation shaft when he was replacing a pump.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Two mineworkers were instructed to change a pump that was being used for removing excess water from the sump of a ventilation shaft. The site had been inspected and the work was carried out from a safe position behind a barrier fence.

The deceased was alone for a short time and for an unknown reason crossed the barrier fence and fell into the sump.

The second workman was unable to give assistance.

INVESTIGATION

An investigation involving Investigation Unit representatives and the District Inspector of Coal Mines is in progress.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

No specific recommendations are considered appropriate at this time as the investigation is yet to be completed. However, employers should remind employees to be alert and careful in the work place at all times. A further Safety Alert will be issued outlining recommendations made from the investigation when it is completed.

For further information contact Doug Smith, District Inspector of Coal Mines, on (02) 4227 1699.

P Healey
CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES

Report No: SA99-14

File No: C99/0562 / COMET Event ID No. 26223000

Date: 4/8/99

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