



SAFETY ALERT

Polyurethane workshop floor pad becomes a projectile

INCIDENT

A contractor received extensive head injuries when a workshop floor pad was forcefully ejected from beneath a front end loader bucket.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The contractor was in the process of setting up the loader in a workshop to carry out maintenance.

A polyurethane pad (400mm x 470mm x 40mm weighing 9.6kg) was placed under a centre bucket tooth to prevent concrete spalling. The loader bucket was then tilted slightly forward which caused the pad to be expelled out and upwards, striking the contractor forcefully in the forehead.

INVESTIGATION

Investigations into the incident are continuing.



The polyurethane workshop floor pad (circled) that was ejected from beneath the front end loader bucket.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All mines should review their maintenance practices to ensure:

1. Systems of work are safe and without risk to the health of people.
2. Workers are provided with information, instruction, training and supervision as may be necessary to ensure their health and safety.
3. Tools are fit for purpose.
4. Additional items introduced for tasks have been risk assessed and are fit for purpose when properly used.
5. The use of plant energy sources must be identified and taken into account when risk assessing tasks and materials.
6. Repetitive work is standardised to minimise unsafe variations of activities and should include the use of tools and materials, eg safe work procedures are developed.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Signed



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