

SAFETY ALERT



PUGMILL TIPS OVER IN QUARRY

INCIDENT

A portable pugmill was tipped over onto its side when being fed by a front end loader.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The pugmill's trailer frame, which was supported on jacks, had been in the same position in the quarry for 8 years.

The silo of the pugmill was full of cement, approximately 20 tonnes.

The front wheels of the front end loader bumped into the pugmill when the loader was dumping a bucket of gravel into the hopper.

There was no barrier of any sort to prevent the wheels making contact with the pugmill.

No one was injured, as the operator of the pugmill had been well out of the way.

INVESTIGATION

It appears the pugmill was top heavy and the action of the loader against it finally caused it to tip over.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators of pugmills should obtain engineering advice to ensure the pugmills are adequately supported on a solid base. Pugmills should be either secured to footings or have adequate outriggers or side bracing to ensure they will not tip over on any occasion.

Barriers, such as a concrete bund or timber, should be put in place on the ramps up to the hoppers to prevent the loaders' wheels bumping into the pugmill.

Loader operators should be trained not to bump into any equipment when loading into it.

For further information contact Keith Chilman, Regional Inspector of Mines on mobile 0418 858 057.

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