

SAFETY ALERT



FAILURE OF DRIFT HAULAGE ROPE

INCIDENT

A men and materials drift haulage rope broke while taking four mine personnel and a rail flat top of equipment from an underground coal mine.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The mine wire rope haulage system transports men and materials in and out of the mine.

The haulage rope broke when the load was in the lower part of the drift.

Three of the four men in the dolly car managed to scramble out, but a fourth remained inside until the vehicle came to a stop.

INVESTIGATION

An investigation is in progress to determine the cause of the accident.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

All operators of drift haulage mines should conduct an audit, at the earliest opportunity, of their drift/shaft haulage systems and shaft, including rope, rope support equipment, roadway/shaft, rope haulage apparatus, and conveyances/rolling stock, to determine the status of the system.

When auditing the system, the following need to be clearly in place:

- Engineering standards should be developed such that persons conducting inspections and maintenance activities are aware of the criteria required for safe operation.
- A demonstrable and appropriate management system relating to maintenance and inspections.
- The competence of those carrying out maintenance and inspections should be appropriate for the task.

Guidance documents MDG 26 and MDG 33 are available to help you in this task. In addition, refer to the Coal Mines Regulation (Shaft and Roadways – Underground Mines) Regulation 1984.

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