

INVESTIGATION INFORMATION RELEASE

Fatality

Incident date: 14 October 2019

Event: Non-work-related death

Location: Cedar Point Quarry, Cedar Point NSW

Overview

A worker was found unresponsive inside an excavator. Despite the efforts of his co-workers and the ambulance officers, the worker was unable to be revived.

Figure 1 Photograph of the loader, excavator and mobile screen



The mine

Cedar Point Quarry is located 7 kilometres south of Kyogle, near Casino in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. The mine is operated by Grahams Quarry Cedar Point Pty Ltd.

The incident

About 10 am on 14 October 2019, a 50-year-old worker was operating an excavator. The worker was loading basalt material into a reclaimer screen at the quarry. The screened aggregate was being loaded out by another worker in a front-end loader. The loader operator noticed the excavator had stopped loading the mobile screen and was stationary. The loader operator attempted radio communications with the excavator without a response. The loader operator stopped the loader, ran to the excavator and found the worker inside the cabin motionless and unresponsive. The loader operator commenced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the excavator cabin.

The loader operator raised the emergency. Several co-workers went to the worker's aid and, after contacting emergency services and being instructed by Ambulance NSW, continued CPR. Ambulance officers continued resuscitation when they arrived, however they were unable to revive the worker.

Investigation outcome

The NSW Resources Regulator conducted an investigation into the circumstances of the worker's death. As a result of medical information obtained during the investigation, we do not consider the worker's death to be work-related.

Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health, safety and welfare associated with quarries and the operation of mobile plant in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulations.

Health control plan

Mine operators have a duty under provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health of workers while at work. Accordingly, all mines, quarries and petroleum sites are required to develop and implement a health control plan. Mine operators should have effective health assessment programs in place to ensure workers are healthy and fit to work at mining operations and in mine environments. Regular medical examinations should be undertaken by qualified medical practitioners.

Persons conducting a business or undertaking should provide information to workers about healthy lifestyles and fitness-for-work programs.

Workers should maintain a healthy lifestyle and be fit to undertake the work they perform.

Emergency plans

Mine operators must prepare and implement effective emergency plans in accordance with provisions of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014. Emergency plans are to be resourced and equipped with on-site emergency assets including first aid and emergency equipment, facilities, services and personnel.

Mine operators have a duty to ensure an effective response to an emergency, including medical treatment and assistance. An adequate number of workers must be trained in emergency response and be able to administer first aid at the workplace.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- Health management: [Health monitoring](#)
- Health control plan: [Fact sheets](#)
- [Emergency planning](#)

About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a non-work-related death in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

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- learn more about our work on major investigations and emergency response
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