



SAFETY BULLETIN

Fatality involving mobile crushing plant

BACKGROUND

The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy (DME) released a Safety Alert on 24 December 2008 about a worker sustaining fatal injuries when struck by the right-hand hopper door of a mobile crushing plant.

The DME reported that the worker was in the process of removing the hopper doors so they could be taken off site for repair. All hold-down bolts, supporting cross bars and the rear door had been removed. The hydraulic ram used to raise and lower the hopper door was the only thing holding the door in a vertical position. When the pin was dislodged from the hydraulic ram, the hopper door fell uncontrolled.

The incident highlights the importance of developing written instructions for tasks of multiple steps rather than relying on verbal instructions. A risk management process must be used in developing these written instructions and a risk management process must be used before conducting a task to ensure an acceptable level of risk is achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mine operators must implement a system where risk management is used to determine the need for development of written work instructions and use this system to reduce the risk to an acceptable level before commencing a task
- Mine operators should review their induction and training and assessment processes to ensure they comply with legislative requirements
- Equipment maintenance manuals must be supplied and available to workers
- Mine operators should review Queensland Safety Alert No 203 *Fatality involving mobile crushing plant* which is available at:

www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/mining_safety___health.cfm

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Bulletin, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Bulletin 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

Rob Regan

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View more safety alerts at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/safety-alerts. If you would like to receive safety alerts by email, send your contact details to mine.safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au