

May 2023 Incident periodical

Recent High Potential Incidents
Learnings and Recommendations
Communications

Incidents occurred in March 2023

Coal Inspectorate

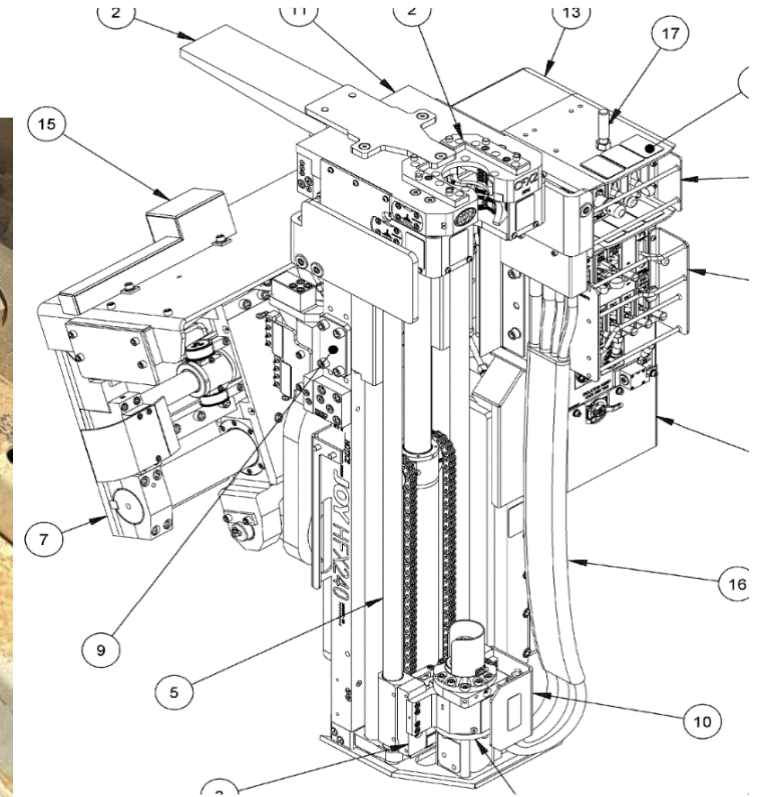


Resources Safety & Health
Queensland

1. Incident – Finger Injuries

Finger injuries are painful and avoidable. They are a regular contributor to the serious accident notifications to RSHQ.

Two incidents were caused by moving objects trapping or pinching fingers during surface activities, one by activation of the roof bolter jaw grippers underground.



Recommendations

When planning jobs consider alternate work methods/tools/jigs that eliminate or reduce the risk of hand injury.

- Confirm the SHMS has effective risk controls for protecting hands and fingers from injury.
- Confirm the SHMS provides for appropriate action to be taken when SHMS risk control measures are identified as not being effectively applied.

Site Senior Executive



- Ensure the risk controls in place for each task include controls to prevent hand and finger injuries.
- Provide effective supervision by confirming the effectiveness of the risk controls.
- During your inspections, ensure all hazards have been identified and risk controlled by coal mine workers

Supervisors



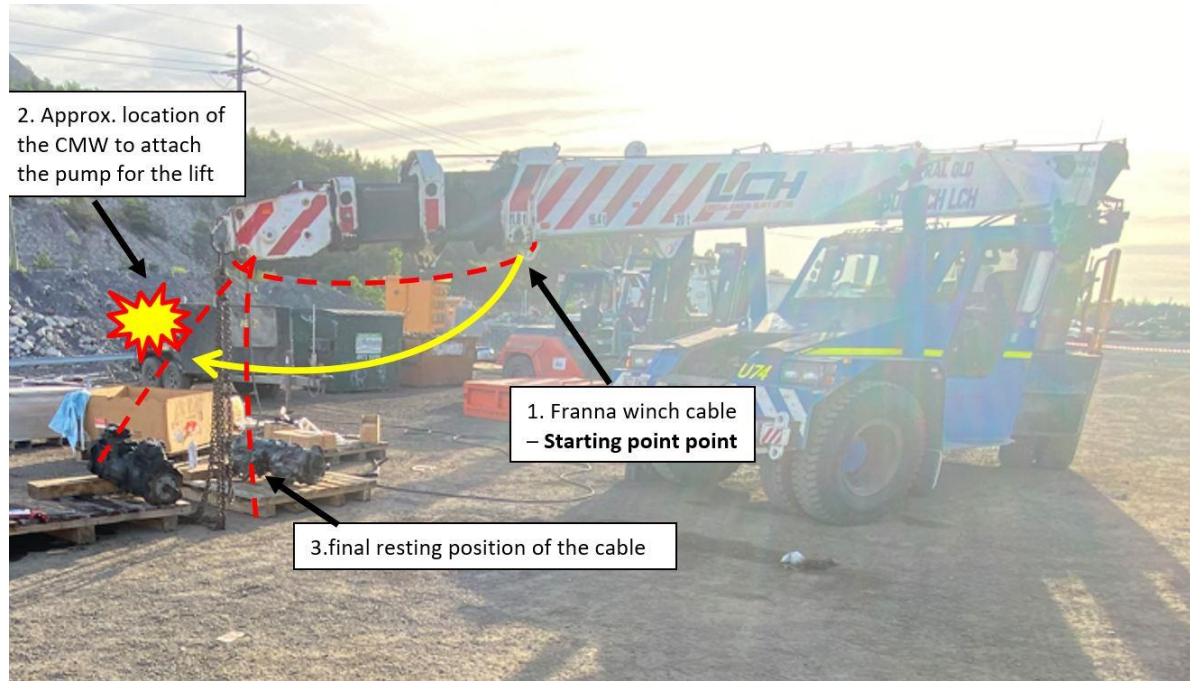
- Identify the hazards to hands and fingers in each task and put effective controls in place to manage the risks.
- Carry out activities and work in according to SHMS procedures in place to avoid an unacceptable level of risk.
- Cease work immediately if you believe a hazard is not being adequately controlled.

Coal Mine Workers



2. Incidents – Head Injuries

Coal mine workers received head injuries when the plant they were working on moved unexpectedly. One incident occurred during lifting activities, the other while dismantling an equipment part. Head injuries are high consequence injuries, requiring effective risk controls to reduce the likelihood of occurrence.



Recommendations

- Confirm the SHMS provides adequate monitoring of effective application of risk control measures.
- Establish and implement effective controls to minimise the risk of head injuries.

Site Senior Executive



- Regularly audit work areas for compliance with site procedures.
- Continually monitor and review the effectiveness of risk control measures,
- Take appropriate corrective and preventive action where non-conformance is identified.

Supervisors



- Work in a way to avoid exposure to an unacceptable level of risk.
- Follow site procedures and work instructions.
- Maintain situational awareness particularly in regard to unexpected movement of equipment

Coal Mine Workers



3. Incident – Projectile injury

- A coal mine worker using a sledge hammer to remove an excavator drive sprocket.
- A steel shard projectile created by the hammer striking the sprocket has penetrated coal mine worker's leg.



Recommendations

- Confirm that the SHMS has effective controls in place to prevent the creation of steel shard projectiles.
- Ensure that Supervisors are competent in assessing the risks and hazards associated with the work environment under their control.

Site Senior Executive



- Confirm task procedures are being effectively implemented by coal mine workers.
- Ensure effective supervision is conducted in areas where work may create steel shard projectiles to identify when additional risk controls are required.

Supervisors



- Be aware of potential for creating steel shard projectiles during hammer on steel contact..
- Cease work immediately if you believe a hazard is not being adequately controlled .
- Inform your supervisor of any concerns about the work environment.

Coal Mine Workers



4. Incident – Rocks breaching catch bunds

Bulldozers maintaining dumps have inadvertently created hazards on roads at the dump toe. Rocks have rolled down the dump slope and landed on the road running along the tow of the dump, creating a hazard for road traffic.



Recommendations

- Confirm the mine's SHMS has effective procedures for preventing rocks from dumping activities entering haul roads.
- Ensure all persons who operate on dumps are trained and competent to prevent rocks entering roadways below dumps.
- Ensure catch bunds are inspected and maintained to design so that they are effective and not three parts full material.

Site Senior Executive



- Verify procedures for working on dumps controls the hazard of rocks entering haul roads running past the dump toe.
- Planned work must take in to consideration the proximity roads to active and inactive dumps.

Supervisors



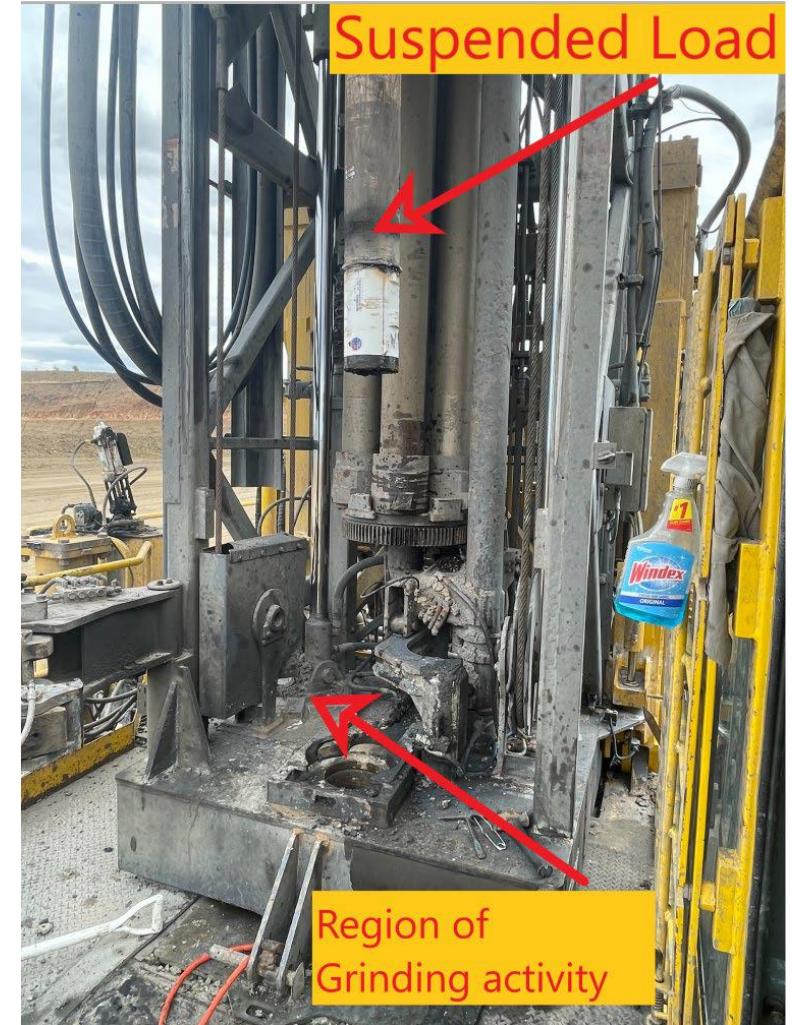
- Coal mine workers must inspect their work area prior to conducting work.
- Ensure that catch bunds are in place and fit for purpose to prevent rocks entering roads running past the dump toe.

Coal Mine Workers



5. Incident – Coal Mine Workers not following procedures.

- Two coal mine workers were assigned to maintain a surface drill.
- During an inspection by their supervisor the following deviations from the SHMS were found:
- The drill was not isolated
- The CMW were working under a suspended load
- The PPE requirements for the task were not being used.



Recommendations

- Confirm coal mine workers are trained and competent in the relevant procedures required by the SHMS.
- Ensure the maintenance system is effective in managing the risks.
- Ensure supervisors are monitoring and verifying effective use of risk controls.

Site Senior Executive



- Monitor and verify that all risk controls for the tasks are being used and are effective.
- Confirm CMW are trained and competent in the procedures relevant to the tasks they are assigned.

Supervisors



- Inspection of equipment work areas must be effective in identifying potential hazards before commencing work.
- Ensure that all hazards are identified and effective controls have been put in place to manage these.
- Inform your supervisor of any concerns you have identified.

Coal Mine Workers



COMMUNICATIONS

- [Reporting HPIs following withdrawal of persons from an underground coal mine](#)
- [Implementation of Bol Recommendations for surface operations](#)
- [Obligations for maintaining rescue capability at an underground coal mine](#)
- [Failure to meet the required number of respirable dust samples as stipulated in RS 14](#)
- [Diesel guideline exposure limit reduction](#)

RECENT SAFETY ALERTS

Safety Alert 429 Inservice failure of an explosion protected diesel engine safety system	Safety Alert 428 Coal mine worker injured undertaking conveyor belt repairs	Safety Alert 427 Fingertip severed when caught in a motorised hood tarp system	Safety Alert 426 Rare earth magnets	Safety Alert 425 Fall of equipment and persons into a stope void
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Recognised Standards

Periodicals

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999

Safety Notices

Board of Examiners

FREE Registration for the PCS Scheme