

Serious accidents and high potential incidents Metalliferous mines and quarries

Compilation of reports for December 2016

Gravity

Fall of people (1)

- While exiting an excavator, the operator missed a foot hold and fell to the ground.

Fall of vehicle (2)

- A bund that was being pushed up into an open drawpoint of a stope fell into a void created when undercut rings were fired on the previous shift.
- While reversing to tip, the rear left wheel of an underground dump truck sunk into the floor of a previously filled stope.

Fall of equipment/material (6)

- A boilermaker who was assisting with relining an underground ore bin sustained a fractured ankle when he was struck on the lower leg while removing a worn rail liner.
- While lifting a fibreglass breather pipe, weighing approximately 2.2 t, from the top of a filtrate tank in a process plant the lifting lugs on the breather pipe failed. The pipe fell 1 m, within a barricaded zone, onto a conveyor structure.
- A piece of roof support channel iron in a process plant detached and fell through corroded roof sheeting to the floor.
- While removing the belly plate from a Sandvik TH663 truck a fitter sustained a crush injury to his right hand index finger.

- Two diesel powered water pumps located on a pad next to a dredging pond slipped into the pond when the bank and pad collapsed.
- During a conveyor belt replacement a worker was struck on the face by a return idler, weighing 44 kg, which was dislodged and fell 4.8 m to the ground while removing the belt. The worker was taken to hospital for treatment.

Fall of ground (1)

- A portion of a 30 t rock fall from a pit wall breached a catch bund and fell to the pit floor.

Fall of structure (1)

- A strong gust of wind lifted a polycarbonate roofing panel from a process plant conveyor weather cover. The panel, measuring 2.4 m x 1.45 m, fell onto a walkway below.

Electrical

Electric shock (4)

- A worker received an electric shock while plugging a power board into a socket.
- A worker received an electric shock while connecting the earth lead of a wire feed welder onto a crusher frame.
- A worker received an electric shock when a drill rod that was being moved contacted and damaged a 48 VDC camera ethernet cable.
- A laboratory worker received an electric shock when turning off a motorised sieve.

Arc flash/burns (2)

- During excavation activities adjacent to a dam the cable supplying power to the dam pumps was dug up and severed.
- While tramming a drill rig out of a quarry the raised mast struck overhead power lines.

Other (1)

- While loading a mancar onto the bottom deck of a shaft cage a platman was using the inching up control to make a minor adjustment to the position of the deck when the cage suddenly moved down, jamming the mancar and contents against the top deck of the cage.

Vehicle

Collision with another vehicle (3)

- A Komatsu WA500 loader reversed into the trailer of a road train while the road train was preparing to tip on the leach pad.
- A light vehicle reversed into a stationary rear dump truck on a ROM pad.
- An operator, familiar with operating Cat trucks, was driving an Atlas Copco MT 6020 truck down a decline to pick up a light vehicle operator. As he tried to stop the truck he pushed the retarder pedal instead of the brake pedal and collided with the parked light vehicle.

Collision with a structure (4)

- A Cat 777F haul truck contacted a tyre wall that delineates the left and right hand sides of the ROM access/exit road way.
- The operator of a Cat 773 B dump truck was lowering the tub of the truck while driving away from a stockpile when the tub collided with an overhead conveyor.
- A Cat 773 dump truck manoeuvring around a refuelling area struck and flattened a bollard.

- A light vehicle rolled 60 m from where it had been parked before running into a fence.

Collision with a person (1)

- The operator of a Cat 988 loader was surprised by a worker, who had not established positive communication, appearing beside the front left tyre of his loader which was stationary with the bucket raised. The worker assumed the operator had seen him and had intended to walk in front of the loader.

Mechanical

Struck by a projectile (1)

- During the regular process of hydraulically raising the crusher bonnet to clear a blockage, the welds on two jacking plates attached to the bonnet failed. One of the plates weighing 12 kg was forcefully ejected and landed on the ground 6 m below.

Chemical

Ammonia (1)

- A failed gland packing in the recycle system of an ammonia plant resulted in the release of liquid ammonia.

Pressure

Failure of pressure vessel (1)

- While relocating a full G size oxy bottle from a ute to an oxy trolley, the bottle fell and the control valve broke off, allowing the contents to discharge under pressure. The bottle came to rest under a workbench.

Other (1)

- A fitter was undertaking repairs on the hydraulic system of a filter press. He believed he had depressurised the system and was removing a check valve when it ejected under pressure. The valve, weighing approximately 1 kg, travelled vertically 9 m and pierced the roof of the filter plant shed.



Psychosocial

Fatigue (1)

- The operator of a Terex MT3300 truck had a micro sleep while travelling on a haul road to the dump. The truck hit the edge of the road and damaged a tyre.

Explosives

Flyrock (1)

- Flyrock from a quarry blast put several holes in a workshop shed and broke a windscreen on a dump truck parked inside the exclusion zone.

Misfire (1)

- While collaring a downhole with a Simba drill rig the drill bit has intersected a misfired development lifter hole containing packaged emulsion explosive.

Thermal

Fire (4)

- A fire on a 20 t Volvo excavator was possibly caused by an electrical fault within the air conditioning system. Despite using two extinguishers the operator was unable to extinguish the fire which destroyed the machine.
- Sulphur spillage from a leaking pump gland in a process plant caught fire and then ignited sulphur residue which had built up in adjacent electrical cable trays. The fire was initially put out with fire extinguishers and then doused with water after the power was isolated.
- A generator set at a power station caught fire.
- While tipping a smelter convertor slag pot, a hydraulic line on a Kress Hauler failed igniting a fire which flamed briefly around the pot cradle and cabin of the vehicle before self-extinguishing.

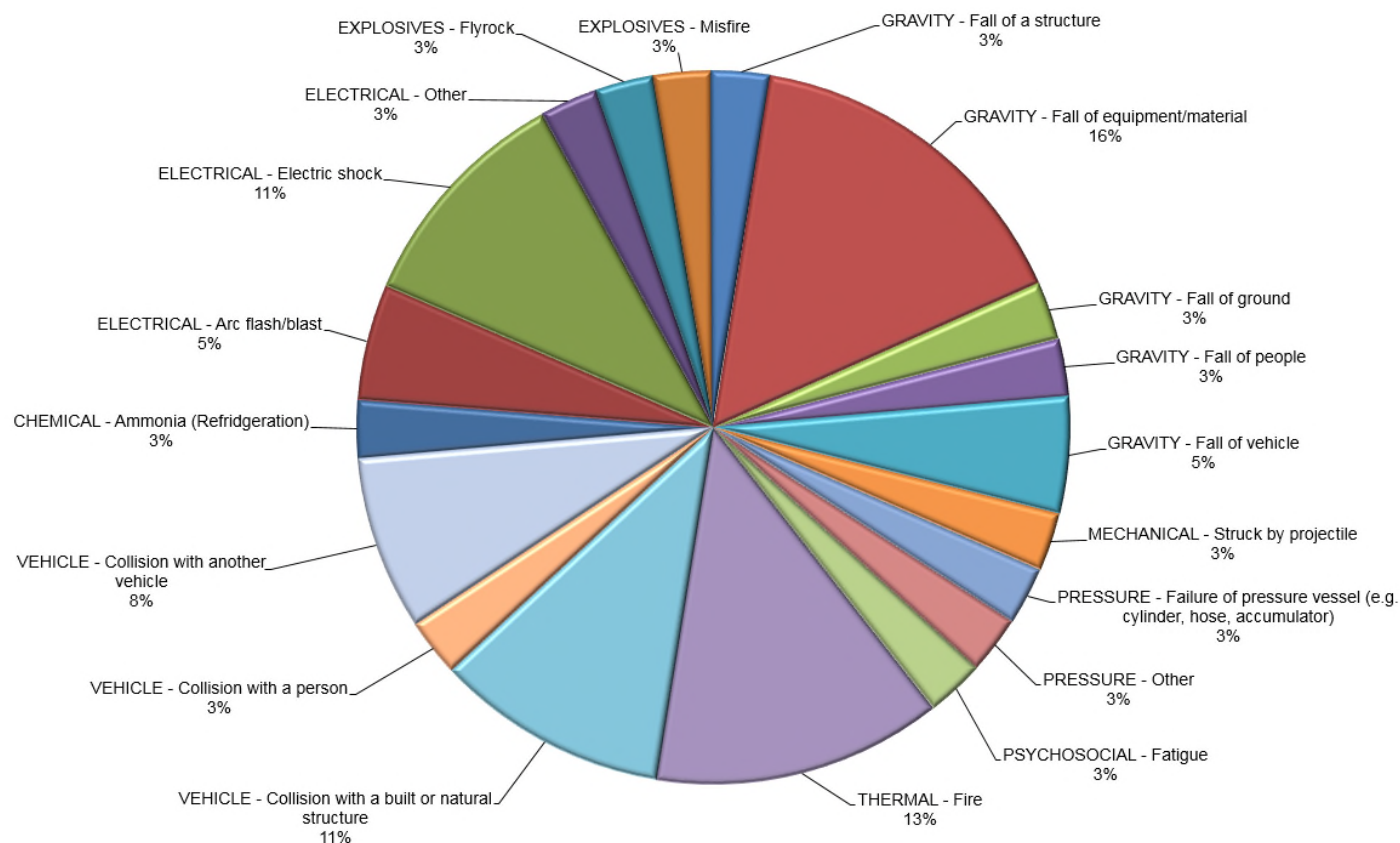


Chart 1 - December 2016 - 38 Incidents

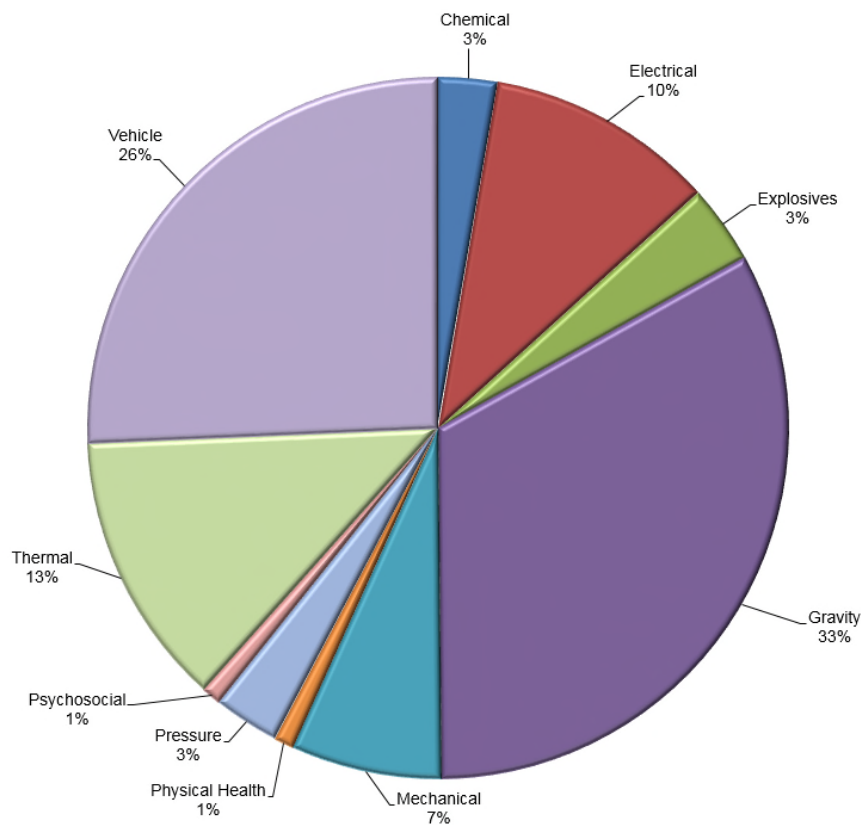


Chart 2 – 12 month total to December 2016 by Hazard Category (331 Incidents)

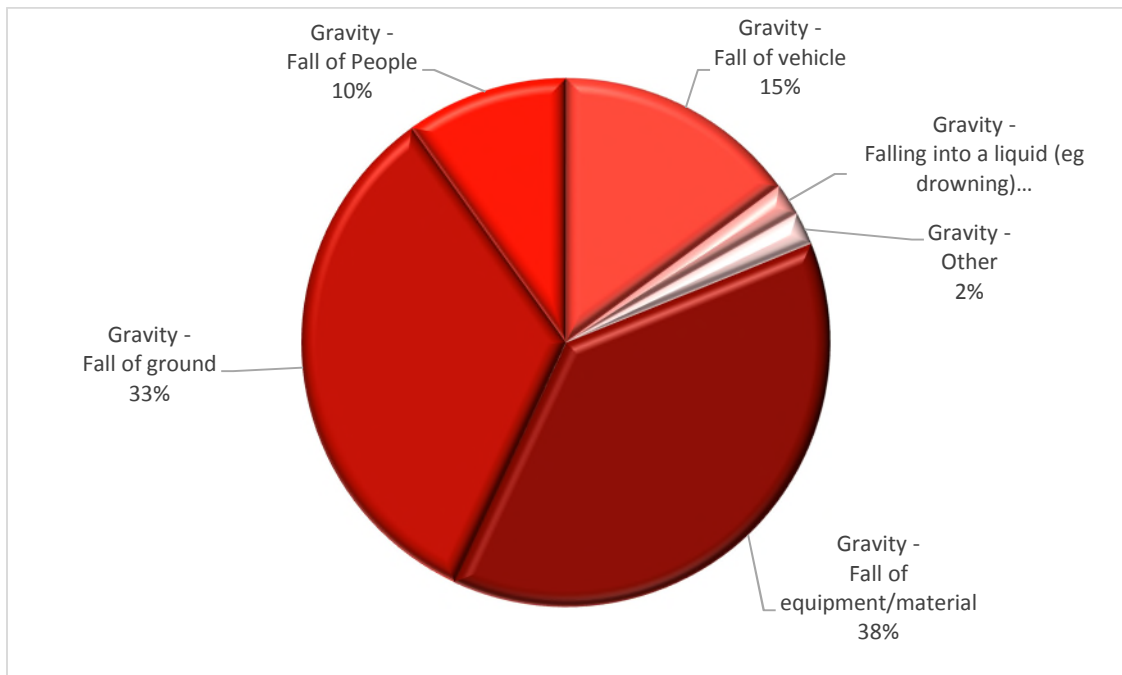


Chart 3 - July to December 2016 Breakdown of Gravity Hazard Category (62 Incidents)

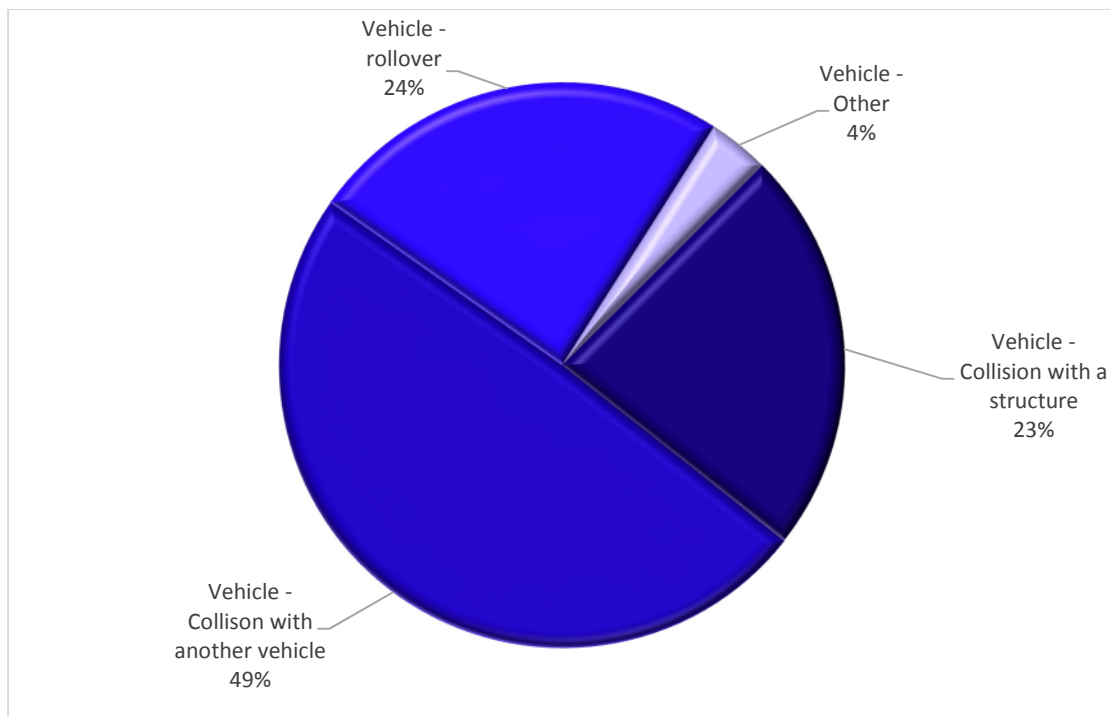


Chart 4 - July to December 2016 Breakdown of Vehicle Hazard Category (37 Incidents)

Past Metalliferous Mines and Quarry summary reports can be sourced at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/mining/safety-health/mining-safety-health/accidents-incidents/serious-and-high-potential>
