

Serious accidents and high potential incidents- Metalliferous mines and quarries

Compilation of reports for August 2016

Gravity

Fall of equipment/material (2)

- A quarry worker in the vicinity of a screen conveyor was struck on the helmet when a rock fell from the conveyor. The worker was transported to hospital for assessment.
- A cable bolter was being operated from a remote location when a pin from the operating arm sheared resulting in the arm falling to the ground. No one was injured.

Fall of ground (3)

- A rock approximately 15 cm in diameter dislodged from a pit wall, fell three bench levels and rolled through a blast pattern area where a shot firing crew was preparing a shot.
- A rockfall occurred while a turnout was being mucked. Over period of 1 to 2 hours the ground unravelled 3 to 4 metres inside supported ground.
- A worker was on the ground charging a development face when a rock has fallen from the face and struck him on the head and limbs. The worker sustained lacerations to the head a broken collarbone, two fractured ribs and was transported to hospital.

Fall of people (1)

- A Maintainer fell from the rear wheel mudguard of a Caterpillar 776D truck when he stepped on it and it moved unexpectedly. He initially landed on his feet but then fell back onto his tailbone. He was transported to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

Fall of vehicle (1)

- While manoeuvring out of the way to allow for the recovery of a bogged service vehicle, a surface drill rig overbalanced and tipped onto its side. The rig mast had not been lowered prior to the rig moving. The operator who received minor injuries and exited the cab through the emergency window.

Other (1)

- An unplanned breakthrough of a stope void into the floor of a drive was found by a worker during an inspection of the area.

Vehicle

Collision with another vehicle (3)

- While parked waiting to dump rock into a crusher bin, the cabin and handrails of a Komatsu HD465 truck were damaged when another truck reversed into it. The operator of the stationary truck attempted to alert the reversing truck by radio but was unsuccessful.
- While loading a dog trailer through the tailgate the counterweight of a Doosan DX 340LC Excavator contacted the combing rail of the trailer.
- While reversing on a dump a Komatsu 375 dozer collided with a Komatsu 785-7 dump truck that the dozer driver had just positioned so that the truck could fill a low spot in the dump floor. Both the dozer and the dump truck were fitted with proximity detection devices.

Loss of control (1)

- While travelling along the side of a topsoil stockpile, a water truck slid sideways became bogged and unstable. The operator was uninjured and exited the truck.

Mechanical

Other (2)

- An operator dumped a load at the low grade dump area. As he pulled away from the dump he heard a loud bang. The operator pulled up and had a look underneath, saw nothing hanging down so got back in his truck and started heading back to the digger. The truck started to veer to the right and when the operator tried to correct it the truck would not respond. Operator stopped the truck.
- While charging a development face from a Normet charge car basket, a basket has suddenly tilted forward and the boom has dropped to the ground. No injury.

Pressure

- **Failure of pressure vessel (1)** A safety release device blew off an Argon shield gas bottle when an isolation valve was turned on after change over.

Thermal

Explosion (1)

- A molten metal and steam explosion occurred from the furnace floor hearth outlet when a furnace was restarted after a shutdown. An operator had noticed the outlet valve glowing red and evacuated the area prior to the explosion.

Fire (1)

- A fire occurred in the engine bay of a Sandvick TH663 truck. An emergency call was made and the fire was subsequently extinguished using the on board fire suppression system and a hand held extinguisher. Following the emergency call all mine workers went to refuge bays until an all clear was given.

Electrical

Electric shock (1)

- A worker received an electric shock when they contacted a wet extension lead attached to a dosing pump. A second worker also received a shock while moving this lead to another power point. In both cases a Residual Current Device functioned to trip the power.

Other (1)

- While excavating near a tower in a processing plant the bucket of the excavator exposed and pulled up the electrical cable running from a generator set to a site building.

Chemical

Ammonia (1)

- The power station at a mine tripped out, causing the ammonia plant at the mine to become unstable. Non-essential personnel were evacuated. The plant was brought under control by manually activating critical controls.

Other (1)

- Two workers working outside a smelter baghouse reported feeling light-headed. The workers were taken to the hospital for observation and released without further issues. Subsequent monitoring indicated 80 ppm CO levels in the work area.

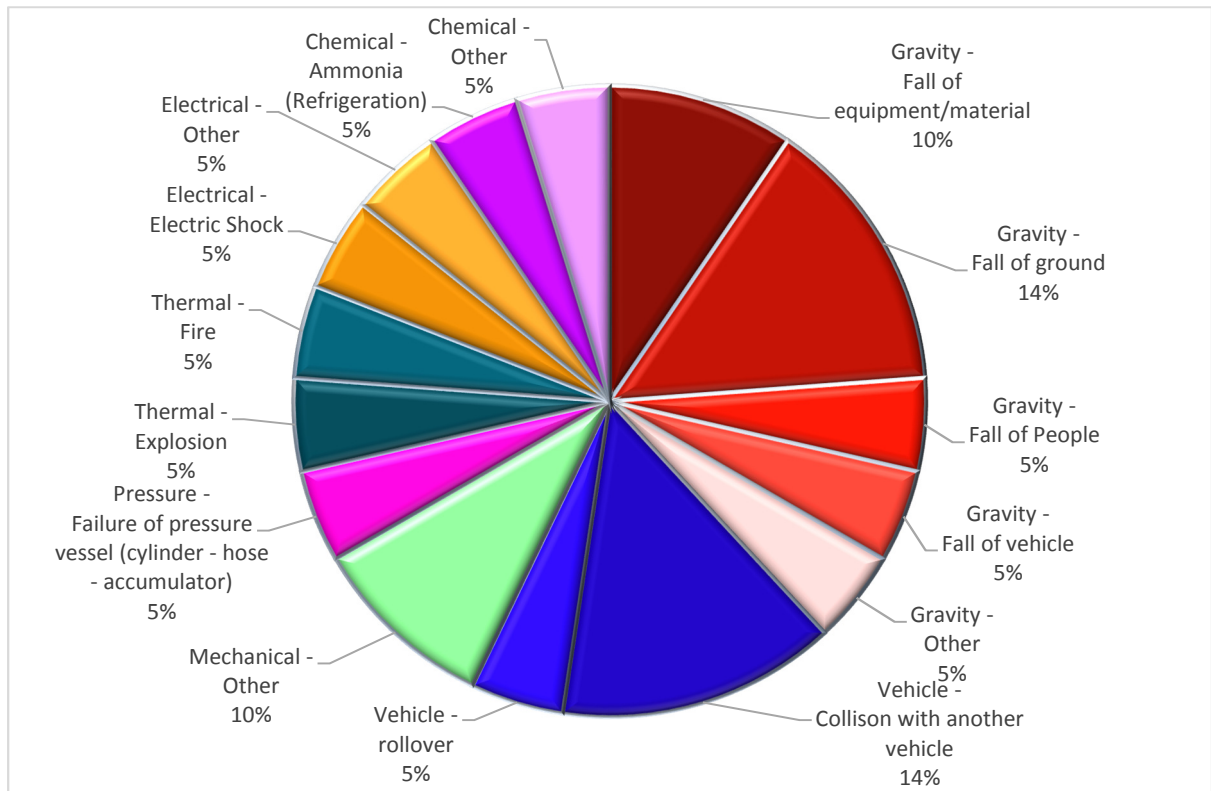


Figure 1 – August 2016 events reported (21)