

## One mine worker's story

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*"On the days following the event, I reflected on how my loss would have affected my wife and two children, who were both under 5 years. It was a very sobering thought!" John (not his real name)*

John's story is a sobering one. While working in a West Coast coal mine some years ago, the light vehicle he was driving was struck by a reversing dump truck. Temporary traffic arrangements at the mine saw light vehicles being individually ushered through a tip head where reversing trucks were dumping. *"I had been signalled to cross through the work area by the tip head operator, when the stationary dump truck started to reverse towards me without warning."*



The dump truck ran over the front of the Ute (not 'struck' or 'hit' – the large tyres literally stamped on the bonnet). The cabin of the vehicle was fortunately unaffected, and John sustained no injury at all. *"Had my vehicle been a half metre further forward, I probably would have had my legs crushed. One metre further forward and I would have died for sure. It was so close that the driver's side mirror was stripped by the truck tyre."*

***"...the thing that I take away from the incident is that you don't have to be expecting danger for a high consequence, low likelihood event to make an appearance and kill someone."***

Far too many incidents occur due to the interaction of heavy vehicles with light vehicles and pedestrians. You need to ensure that your traffic management plans and procedures include:

- **Separation of heavy vehicles, light vehicles and pedestrians wherever possible**
- **Procedures that require heavy vehicles to stop operating when light vehicles and pedestrians enter work areas**
- **Supervision, physical checks, and inspections to ensure safe work procedures are being followed and are effective**
- **Training, and regular reinforcement, to ensure workers are aware of procedures around interaction of heavy vehicles, light vehicles and pedestrians**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe. Thanks for your story "John".

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