

Learning from Incidents



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Lessons from recent incidents



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Learnings

- All nip points must be adequately guarded to ensure no-one can access the nip point.
- Guards should be designed and installed such that maintenance can be conducted without the need to remove the guard if plant is not isolated.
- Checks are conducted to ensure all guards are fitted before plant is started, particularly after maintenance.
- Ensure all workers are trained and competent in safe operating procedures and why it is important to follow them.

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Learnings

- Ensure you conduct a site assessment of geology and potential geotechnical issues to identify potential slope instability issues.
- Ensure regular site inspections for ground instability are conducted, particularly after significant rainfall.
- A catch bench is established between the excavator and face when working at the face.
- When operating an excavator at a face, ensure that the cab of the excavator is on the free side of the shot i.e. not facing the bench.

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Learnings

- All contractors must report to the site office or supervisor and be inducted to the site prior to commencing work. (**“Work as done”?**)
- When LVs enter restricted and operational work areas, positive communication must be used as a minimum to ensure HVs are aware of entry and approve access. (**LV needs to be in control**)
- Where possible, restrict entry of LVs to work areas when HVs are operating, or ensure HVs stop work when LVs enter their work area.

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Learnings

- Crush hazards are discussed, and controls put in place prior to commencement of any task where workers are at risk of getting themselves caught between heavy plant and equipment during maintenance. (**What could go wrong?**)
- Workers are made aware of the dangers of getting limbs caught between plant and equipment during maintenance.
- Chocks or spacers are used to protect against sudden movement of plant during maintenance.

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Learnings

- If using concrete blocks on site for bin walls etc., ensure they are interlocked and stable or placed in a single layer only.
- Potential fall hazards are identified in work areas and appropriate exclusion zones are established to protect workers from such hazards. (Effective exclusion zone???)
- Following severe weather events, work areas are assessed to identify hazards created by such weather before work commences.

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Learnings

- The site Blast Management Plan must include a documented misfire procedure.
- Ensure all workers are trained in the misfire procedure and that workers are aware of what to do in the event that unexploded material is discovered in a muck pile.
- Post-blast inspections are conducted and the "all clear" given by the shotfirer before anyone is allowed to commence work on the blasted material.

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Are there any incidents you would like to share from your experience?

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"There are three kinds of men. The one that learns by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves."

Will Rogers

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