

Resources Safety and Health Newsflash

Fire Suppression System Failure to Activate

Purpose

To raise awareness of the occurrence of a serious incident(s) with potential to cause serious injury to coal mine workers, the hazards involved and the controls to be taken.

What happened?

Upon manual activation of an fire suppression system during routine servicing at an open cut coal mine, the system failed to actuate as per design. Upon further investigation it was found that the dimensions of the “cylinder discharge valve shuttle assembly” were outside of tolerances causing it to not seat or actuate correctly. The Department have been made aware that this fault has been identified on several machines.

See example cylinder discharge valve shuttle assembly below



All mines should immediately audit all machine mounted fire suppression systems to determine that the system is functional. Mines should ensure that the “cylinder discharge valve shuttle assembly” is dimensionally correct and functioning correctly.

In particular mines should review their maintenance strategies for fire suppression systems to:

- **Confirm that suitable inspections are in place.**
- **Confirm that the inspections are relevant and applicable to the potential failure modes.**
- **Consult with the OEM or service provider to ensure that the correct “cylinder discharge valve shuttle Assembly” is installed.**
- **Confirm with the OEM or service provider to ensure all current stock holdings of “cylinder discharge valve shuttle assemblies are correct.”**

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Further information from the investigation may be provided at a later date.

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30 April 2020

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