

Inrush from raisebore hole

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What happened?

An inrush occurred from a raisebore hole resulting in a flow of material into a roadway. An operator noticed that material was accumulating in the raisebore hole so he ceased operations and removed people from the area. Subsequently the material flowed from the hole and into the roadway below.

How did it happen?

A blockage occurred within the raisebore hole operation.

Comments

Where shafts or vertical openings are being mined, the hazard of an inrush must be considered, and controls implemented to ensure the risk is as low as reasonably achievable.

Recommendations

That mines complete a risk assessment for raisebore operations to ensure that controls are established to manage the associated hazards.

- That all potential hazards are to be assessed, including but not limited to the potential inrush of material from the raisebore.
 - Ensure hazard plans include results of drill logs identifying structures, weak materials, ingress of water or other materials within the raisebore shaft.
 - Drill drain holes into the raisebore hole to allow effective drainage and monitoring of water flows from the raisebore hole. Drain holes should allow water to be released before it builds up in the raisebore.
 - Establish a 'no go' zone at the base of the raisebore hole, except for muck.
 - Where possible take appropriate measures to prevent any peripheral water from entering the raisebore hole.
 - Establish clear procedures to trigger actions at what height of cuttings and circumstance while conducting the raisebore into possible blockage.
 - Consider reconciling the material removed with the advancement of the raisebore to ensure material is not hung up in the raisebore.
 - Consider remote mining practices for the removal of material from the base of the raisebore.
 - Establish procedures for operators that require specific actions when conditions/material change.
- Review New South Wales MDG 1030 Guideline for raiseboring Operations: see
- www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/420074/MDG-1030.pdf

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