SAFETY ALERT

FATALITY RESULTING FROM A CONTINUOUS MINER CRUSHING INJURY

INCIDENT
A mechanical tradesperson was fatally injured as a result of the automatic operation of a continuous miner’s stabiliser cylinder whilst re-installing a conveyor boom assembly.

CIRCUMSTANCES
Whilst connecting an elevating hydraulic cylinder to the conveyor boom, power was applied to the machine to assist with the installation of the top pin of the elevating cylinder.

Upon operation of the hydraulic pump motor, the automatic operation of the stabiliser cylinder caught the tradesperson across the legs resulting in the fatal injury.

INVESTIGATION
An investigation is in progress to determine the factors involved leading to the accident.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
Managers and Engineers of Coal Mines should conduct an audit of all machinery where procedures require power to be applied to effect the installation, maintenance and removal of equipment.

Prior to any maintenance work being performed Supervisors should ensure appropriate isolation procedures exist and are fully implemented to ensure maintenance personnel cannot be inadvertently put at risk by the unplanned operation of machinery.


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