

SAFETY ALERT

DATE: JUNE 2021

Worker knocked off ladder

This safety alert provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

Issue

A worker was knocked from a ladder, falling onto a mobile work bench below. The ladder was knocked when a radiator noise attenuator assembly fell over. The attenuator was being prepared to be re-installed on a Komatsu 930e haul truck.

Circumstances

At the time of the incident, a radiator attenuator was being transported, using a franna crane, back into a workshop following repairs. It was planned to immediately fit the attenuator to the Komatsu 930e haul truck, however, the workers were called away to complete another task. The attenuator was placed on the ground, in front of the haul truck, in a vertical position. The franna crane was disconnected and taken elsewhere.

The day shift crew was tasked with installing the attenuator to the haul truck. Later that morning, workers set up their work area in preparation for the installation of the radiator attenuator. This included placing their toolboxes and a mobile work bench in front of radiator attenuator.

The rear of the attenuator was connected via chains to the overhead crane. A worker placed a platform ladder in front of the radiator attenuator and commenced connecting a sling to the guard rail on top of the attenuator. Whilst securing the sling, the attenuator fell forward, knocking the worker off the ladder onto the mobile workbench. The attenuator fell onto the worker's toolbox, crushing the ladder.

Figure 1: Scene after the incident



Note. The work bench on the left of the picture that the worker fell onto has been moved from its original position.

Investigation

The NSW Resources Regulator has conducted a site assessment to obtain information about the incident.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Mine operators carry out a risk assessment regarding lifting activities undertaken onsite. The risk assessment should include the transport, storage and stability of loads. In carrying out the risk assessment for lifting activities, the mine operator must implement controls in accordance with the hierarchy of control measures as required by clause 35 and 36 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.
- When storing plant and equipment, even temporarily, the stability of the item must be considered.
- Lifting procedures provided by manufacturers or designers are to be readily available to workers who are carrying out lifting activities.

- Mine operators provide training to all workers (including contractors) about the hazards of lifting activities and the safe storing and restraining of plant and equipment.
- Mine operators should have risk management procedures in place which require workers to review the hazards associated with a task when the work process changes.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety alert and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

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