

# FACT SHEET

## Planned inspection program – falling objects

### Metalliferous mines and large quarries

#### July 2022

Falling objects are a hazard that can occur within various mining environments and have the potential to cause serious and/or fatal injuries to workers if not controlled effectively.

This fact sheet outlines the critical controls for the risk of falling objects within metalliferous mines and large quarries that should be considered by mine operators when assessing the risk at their operation.

The NSW Resources Regulator has commenced a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments that will focus on the following critical controls, ensuring compliance across the metalliferous and quarry mining industry in NSW.



## Loose item containment

- Prevent items and materials falling into areas where people may work

## Exclusion zones

- Exclusion zones are identified and delineated prior to working above.
- People do not enter areas where a falling or swinging object risk exists.



## Lifting practices

- Loads remain securely connected to the lifting plant for the duration of the lifting work.
- Lifting plans include the control of people and equipment below the lift.



## Lifting plant stability and control

- Lifting plant remains stable during lifting tasks

## Lifting equipment integrity

- The working load limit of equipment used to connect loads to lifting devices is preserved.



## Operator protective structures

- Prevent mobile plant operators being hit by falling objects.

## Considerations

Mines should consider the above criteria as a minimum and ensure that relevant information is included within their respective principal hazard management plans and associated documentation.

Following investigations into incidents relating to falling objects, it is evident that non-compliance to these key control measures have contributed to incident outcomes, which has caused both severe and fatal injuries to workers.

When identifying and implementing control measures, mine operators are also reminded to follow the hierarchy of controls to ensure health and safety risks are minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

**Other relevant safety alerts and bulletins published by the NSW Resources Regulator:**

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
February 2021	IIR21-02	<a href="#">Drift winder head sheave pulley wheel falls from height during winder rope removal</a>
June 2020	Investigation Report	<a href="#">Report into the death of Quinton Moore at Bengalla mine 3 November 2018</a>

June 2020	SA20-06	<a href="#">QDS pods fall off dolly car flat top and slide down drift</a>
August 2019	Code of practice	<a href="#">Managing the risks of plant in the workplace</a>
November 2018	Investigation report	<a href="#">Report into the death of Mr Stephen Norman at the Rix's Creek Coal Mine, Singleton, NSW, on 13 December 2016.</a>
November 2018	IIR18-11	<a href="#">Tyre handler fatality</a>
April 2018	SB18-05	<a href="#">Increase in shattered windscreens on mobile plant</a>
May 2017	SA17-05	<a href="#">Hand injured by fall of drill rods</a>
May 2017	SA17-04	<a href="#">Synthetic fibre sling fails</a>
December 2016	IIR16-08	<a href="#">Worker dies after being struck by truck tailgate</a>
September 2016	Code of practice	<a href="#">Mechanical engineering control plan</a>

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