

Resources Safety and Health Newsflash

An early report about an incident that may require action at your mine

Mobile Plant – Access Entrapment

A High Potential Incident involving machine access occurred at a mine in the northern Bowen Basin on the 28th March 2020. A maintainer was completing post service checks whilst seated in a grader with the cabin door open. The grader was fitted with a dynamic rotating access ladder (refer Fig 1 & 2). On completion of testing, the maintainer has initiated a machine shutdown; and the ladder has activated swinging up. The maintainer was caught half out of the cabin when the ladder struck his foot pinning him to the walkway. In this incident, the maintainer was able to activate the emergency stop.



Fig 1: Grader showing ladder



Fig 2: Partially raised access ladder

Industry advice

A number of recently reported incidents involving machine access systems have resulted in worker fatalities and others suffering serious injuries. It is recommended that;

- Risk assessments and controls for machine access systems be reviewed. Risk assessment for all machine access systems and machine configurations must be assessed.

In completing reviews, the following should be considered;

- Functionality of access systems including all modes of operation, system controls and interlocks,
- Site equipment engineering standards, including introduction to site processes,
- Auditing of site equipment to ensure all equipment is compliant with site standards,
- Testing and maintenance of the system,
- Training of operators and maintainers. Operation and isolation of access systems including during maintenance should be included in training processes.

References:

- “Serious accidents involving retractable hydraulic access ladders on mobile mining equipment”; Mines safety bulletin no. 185, 28 February 2020, QLD Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- “Mine worker injured after falling from grader access ladder”; Mines safety alert No: SA14-0520 November 2014, NSW Resources Regulator.
- “Bulldozer operator crushed between ladder and handrail – significant injuries”: Significant Incident Report No. 280, 20 March 2020, WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

Safety Newsflashes Purpose

1. Draw attention to the occurrence of a serious incident(s) in the mining industry
2. Increase Risk awareness
3. Promote mines to examine and check that their controls are adequate

The investigations are ongoing and further information may be published as it becomes available. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing.

Great state. Great opportunity.



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