



Significant Incident Report No. 218

Subject: Horseplay at a mining operation results in a serious injury

Date: 28 May 2015

Summary of incident

A dogger and an excavator operator were test lifting a polypipe spool (tee piece) and valve assembly. A worker not related to the activity entered the work area from behind the excavator and threw a rope through an open window of the excavator. This startled the operator. When he asked the rope-throwing worker what he was doing, the worker pulled strongly on the rope, which caught on the excavator's control stick, causing the excavator and its load to slew to the left.

The operator tried to remove the rope from around the control stick. However, the other worker pulled on the rope again, causing the excavator and its load to slew left a second time. The load swung into the dogger's leg, injuring him.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service flew the dogger from site to Perth for medical attention. He later had an operation to repair a crushed artery.

Direct causes

- Horseplay caused the excavator and its load to slew unexpectedly.

Contributory causes

- The lift area was not adequately barricaded to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The dogger was in the line of fire.

Actions required

Under section 10(1) of the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*, employees must not adversely affect the safety or health of any other person through any act or omission at work.

Employers must ensure that workers understand their duty of care to themselves and others, and supervisors must not permit unauthorised deviation from site procedures, whether by act or omission.

Further information

Visit www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety for information on occupational safety and health in the resources sector.

This Significant Incident Report was approved for release by the State Mining Engineer on 28 May 2015