



Truck falls backwards over tipping edge

Significant incident report no. 40 | 01 May 2001 | Version 1

Mine type

Metalliferous mine – quarry

Incident

A truck driver backed his 35 tonne capacity dump truck to the edge of the primary crusher rock stockpile but before he could lift the tray to tip, the ground under the back wheels subsided, the truck slid backwards to the bottom of the 4m slope and toppled onto its side. The two occupants were wearing seat belts and were only slightly injured. Truck damage was minimal.

The day before, a mobile equipment operator, on his first day of work at a quarry was inducted with a training video and manual, tested on the loader and given the job of feeding the primary crusher feed hopper with rock from the base of the above stockpile. He removed nearly all the rock from the stockpile. He was not told that trucks occasionally tipped from the top over the edge of the stockpile.

The next day, a truck driver who had been employed at the quarry for one month, was bringing a load of rock to the crusher. He was taking the same loader operator in the spare seat to the crib room for smoko. For the second time that day, the crusher operator told the truck driver to tip on the stockpile. When the driver attempted to tip his second load for the day, the incident occurred.

Equipment

35 tonne capacity haul truck

Hazard

Fall over edge of stockpile

Cause



- Ignorance of safe work practices: The loader operator was unaware that trucks tipped over the edge of the stockpile and left the edge of a tipping stockpile undercut. The truck driver was not familiar with a safe procedure for tipping over the edge of a stockpile.
- The truck back wheels were positioned close to the edge of the stockpile and the ground beneath the back wheels collapsed.
- The quarry manager was not in a position to properly manage his quarry because he was confined for a majority of his time in the weighbridge office performing administrative duties.

Comments and recommendations

- Identify hazardous jobs, assess the risk and prepare written procedures and standard work instructions.
- Familiarise workers with and work to those written procedures and instructions.
- Avoid tipping directly over the edge of a high stockpile.
- Removing material from the bottom of a stockpile makes tipping over the edge even more hazardous.

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