Traffic management

Traffic on mine sites needs to be managed effectively to reduce the risks associated with vehicle and pedestrian movement. The focus of effective traffic management is having safe people, safe vehicle and implementing safe systems. Sites should have a well-designed traffic management system, fit-for-purpose equipment and competent people to reduce the risk of accidents and injuries. This applies at the mine, around the plant and camp, and beyond the gate.

This snapshot covers traffic management incidents for the period from 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2017.

For more information about occupational safety and health, visit our website www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

Traffic management incidents for the period from 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2017.

1. Traffic management incidents were classified as serious.

2. 18 of the serious injuries were lost time injuries.

3. 42 of the 51 injuries were classified as serious.

4. 38 of the 51 injuries were musculoskeletal.

5. 28 of the musculoskeletal injuries were classified as strains.

Top five notifiable incidents by contributory factors

- 28% driver or operator error
- 15% uneven or unstable ground
- 13% unsafe vehicle
- 12% wet surface
- 5% fatigue

Other contributory factors were wildlife and pedestrian error.

For 74 out of 289 incidents, no contributory factors were mentioned. Does your site need to re-evaluate its reporting system?

Injuries by severity

42 of the 51 injuries identified as traffic management injuries were classified as serious.

18 of the serious injuries were lost time injuries.

Notifiable incidents by area

86% of the notifiable incidents occurred during surface operations.

14% of the notifiable incidents occurred during underground operations.

Injuries by nature

38 of the 51 injuries were musculoskeletal.

28 of the musculoskeletal injuries were classified as strains.

Injuries by employment type

20 Contract

31 Permanent

Notifiable incidents by reporting category

44% Seriously or appears to be serious injury (including fatality)

2% Incidents affecting registered plant

16% Potentially serious occurrence

Loss of control, failure of braking or steering of heavy earth moving equipment

38% Truck or mobile equipment contact with person

10% Truck or mobile equipment rollover

10% Truck or mobile equipment collision

30% Truck or mobile equipment over edge

Light vehicle incident

0% not otherwise classified

Note: The information in this snapshot has come from a keyword search of incident reports.
Some recent incidents

Loss of control – haul truck 08/08/17
The tray of an articulated dump truck tipped onto its side while transporting waste material from a stockpile to a pit for floor maintenance. The tray tipped after the driver negotiated a corner at the bottom of the pit ramp. After the incident the truck was found to have two flat tyres on the rear right-hand side of the vehicle – however, the tyre manufacturer confirmed that the flat tyres were caused by the rollover.

Fatigue-related incident – haul truck 07/06/17
The driver of an underground haul truck experienced a micro sleep while tramming the truck along a haulage drive. The truck made contact with the wall of the drive causing minor damage to the vehicle. The operator was on the first shift back at work after a rostered break and was uninjured.

Uncontrolled movement of charge-up machine 18/05/17
A charge-up machine slid down an underground diamond drill drive while personnel were standing nearby. The operator had driven the charge-up machine into the drive and positioned it at the face to charge a heading. The machine was secured into position with the jacks lowered to the ground and the park brake applied when the mine foreman approached the operators. While the operators were having a conversation with the foreman, a rock beneath the front left-hand jack displaced and the machine slid forwards down the drill drive. The machine slid for ~70 cm before coming to a stop. There were no injuries to personnel.

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 249
Drill offside run over by tracked vehicle
11 October 2016

Key message:
Unauthorised changes to mobile plant safety features may result in injuries or fatalities. Any changes should be addressed by the supplier or manufacturer. Always follow safe operating procedures.

Five ways to reduce the risk

Employees should be trained and competent with equipment and follow site traffic management rules and procedures.

If circumstances change, have a process in place to assess and reduce risk. Communicate the changes to all employees.

Apply safe design principles to the mine plan and mining equipment.

Are you separated from heavy equipment? Minimise the interaction risk.

Does your site have regular road maintenance, adequate signage, visible road markings and sufficient lighting? Undertake an audit to check.

Know Your Hazards
Are you aware of your workplace hazards?
Know Your Hazards is a video series produced by the Department for the resources industry. The series targets common workplace hazards that have injured or killed. Let’s work together to reduce the risk of these accidents happening.

Videos related to traffic management will be released soon. Subscribe to our news alerts at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/subscribe for updates.

View or download our hazard awareness videos at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/HazardVideos

For more information see our safety alerts and summaries for industry awareness at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety