



**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 57

**REMOTELY OPERATED MOBILE MACHINE
- FATAL ACCIDENT**

INCIDENT

The operator of a remotely controlled load-haul dump machine died from massive injuries sustained when he was crushed between the rear of the machine and the sidewall of a drawpoint. The deceased was working alone at the time and was found with the radio transmitter harnessed to him in the normal operating manner. The bucket of the machine was partly filled.

CAUSE

There were no witnesses to the accident but it is apparent that the operator was alongside and in close proximity to the rear of the machine at the time.

Thorough examination and testing of the machine's control system did not reveal any malfunction.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

This accident was avoidable by taking the elementary precaution of operating from a position well clear of the machine.

The need to develop and adhere to a safe system of work can not be over-emphasised. A detailed assessment of the risks involved is the first step in developing safe systems of work.

Guidelines relating to design and risk assessment of remotely operated machinery may be referenced from AS/NZS4240:1994 – "Remote controls for mining machinery".

KEEP CLEAR OF MACHINERY AT ALL TIMES

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STATE MINING ENGINEER

26 May 1995

SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES