



Department of
Industry and Resources

Safety, Health and Environment Division
Department of Industry and Resources
Mineral House, 100 Plain Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004
Phone: + 61 8 9222-3333
Fax: + 61 8 9325-2280
Email: shed@doir.wa.gov.au
www.doir.wa.gov.au

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO: 123

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT AT INTERSECTION OF MINE ROAD AND BUSH TRACK

Incident

An unfortunate accident that took place in September 2002 has brought to the attention of the inspectorate a situation that could be widespread, where roads constructed for mining purposes cross existing bush tracks.

The accident in question took place near a town in the southern goldfields region when the driver of a private light vehicle, returning to town late at night, driving along a bush track crossed a mine haul road that was in the process of being rehabilitated. The vehicle, a short wheel base 4WD, hit the drainage channels at the side of the haul road causing the vehicle to become airborne. It landed nose down on the other side of the haul road and rolled end over end. A passenger in the rear of the vehicle sustained serious injuries requiring significant hospitalisation in Perth. The vehicle was extensively damaged in the accident and the other occupants received minor injuries. The drainage channel and camber of the haul road appear to have contributed in part to the accident.

Recommendation

This issue is brought to the attention of mine operators and managers so that they are aware of the potential hazard associated with these situations. It is important that consideration be given to the potential impacts of any mine activities, construction, demolition or rehabilitation on the general public when they encounter them. It is also particularly important to ensure, when assessing the rehabilitation of mine access roads and haul roads, that the finished surface does not impede or endanger the users of other tracks and roads that cross over them. Every reasonable effort should be made to reinstate tracks where they cross mine roads to minimise any potential hazard.

M J Knee
STATE MINING ENGINEER

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GMI480VC/Rep