

DANGEROUS INCIDENT

Shot firing incident damages vehicles

Incident date: 10 April 2018

Event: Flyrock damages vehicles during blasting at quarry

Location: Albury Quarry, Albury NSW

Overview

Flyrock from overburden struck three light vehicles which remained in an exclusion zone during blasting at a quarry. There were no injuries, however, workers and members of the public who were in the exclusion zone at the time of the incident were at risk of being seriously injured.

Photograph 1: Flyrock moving through the air following the blast. Photograph obtained from video footage supplied to the NSW Resources Regulator.



The mine

Burgess Earthmoving Pty Ltd operates Albury Quarry, 10 kilometres northeast of Albury, NSW. The quarry uses a conventional drill and blast operation to extract aggregates, rocks and road base.

Hamiltons Blasting Services Pty Ltd provide blasting services at the quarry under contract. The contractor offers blasting and associated services to Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia.

The incident

A routine overburden blast was initiated at Albury Quarry on 10 April 2018. The contractor undertook the blasting preparations and conducted the blast. The contractor estimated the blast exclusion zone for personnel to be 400 to 500 metres from the blast site.

Preliminary enquiries have identified that mine workers and members of the public were between 300 and 340 metres from the blast location. Flyrock from the blast travelled through the air and damaged three light vehicles parked a short distance away from people. Seven people were at risk of being struck by flyrock.

The cause of the ejection of the flyrock has not been determined at this time.

The incident was brought to the attention of the NSW Resources Regulator on 7 September 2018. This was outside the statutory reporting period required by legislation.

Photograph 2: One of the light vehicles damaged by flyrock. Photograph obtained from video footage supplied to the NSW Resources Regulator.



The investigation

The NSW Resources Regulator has commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The investigation will also examine the late reporting of the incident. An investigation report will be prepared for the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment.

Safety observations

Mine operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety associated with explosives and shottfiring activities in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (NSW), *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* (NSW) and regulations.

There is specific legislation about the management of risks associated with explosives. Persons conducting a business or undertaking should be aware of clauses 26 and 31 and Schedule 2 of the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014*.

Mine operators must ensure that appropriate information, instruction and supervision is provided to workers and members of the public in relation to exclusion zone requirements set out in blast control plans.

Mine operators are reminded that appropriate systems must be in place to review and audit the explosives control plan and blasting work practices to ensure that exclusion zone requirements are enforced. No persons should remain within exclusion zones during blasting activities.

Dangerous incidents must be reported to the NSW Resources Regulator in accordance with section 15 of the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and regulations.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- [IIIR17-08 Flyrock incident at open cut coal mine](#)
- [Explosives Act 2003](#)
- [Explosives Regulation 2013](#)
- [Blasting explosives users license](#)

About this information release

The NSW Resources Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a dangerous incident in the mining industry. Investigations are ongoing and further information may be published as it becomes available.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2019). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

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CM9 reference	DOC18/906045
Mine safety reference	IIR19-01
Published	21 January 2019
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