



Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate: Monthly Regional Newsletter

MPUMALANGA REGION

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mineral resources

Department:
Mineral Resources
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. TOPICAL ISSUES OF THE MONTH

1.1 Last quarter of the year

This season is normally referred to as the silly season as it is the time where accidents are on the increase. Mines are requested to ensure that all systems are in place to ensure that accidents are eliminated.

1.2 Mandatory codes of practice

- In term of Section 9(3) of the Mine Health and Safety Act, the codes of practice required by the Chief Inspector of Mines must comply with the guidelines issued by the Chief Inspector of Mines.

This office is receiving a number of trackless mobile machine codes of practice that do not comply to the guidelines. Employers are requested to ensure that the codes of practices sent to this office are prepared according to the DMR guidelines.

- Section 9(5) further stipulates that the employer must deliver a copy of every code of practice prepared in terms of subsection (2) to the Principal Inspector of Mines.

Not all mines have delivered a copy of the code of practice for the Design, Development/Construction, Safe Operation and Maintenance of Draw points, Tipping points, Rock Passes and Box fronts as requested by this department earlier this year.

Employers are requested to ensure that the code of practice is submitted to this office as soon as possible, as the date for submission has passed.

2. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

In the case of integrating sound level meters and personal noise exposure meters, it is essential that the instrument's internal settings be in accordance with the following local criterion levels;

- Exposure limit: 85dB
- Low threshold limit: 80dB
- Energy exchange or doubling: 3dB

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORTS

According to Section 16 of the Mine Health and Safety Act, an annual medical report needs to be submitted, covering the year from January until December of each year. All mines are hereby reminded to ensure that the occupational medical practitioner compiles the report and that it is submitted to this office by not later than February 2012.

Kindly note that the format for the annual medical report has changed and that the new format should be used. (copy attached)

3. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

3.1. Fatal Accidents

Two fatal accidents were recorded during the month of October 2011.

- On the 2011-10-02 a truck fell onto the shunter after it was struck by derailed trucks. The shunter died on impact.
- On the 2011-11-18 an employee was caught between the chock canopy and the pan line in an underground long wall section. He was caught when the chock moved automatically after the shearer passed.

3.2 Accidents reported

The mines in the region reported twenty nine (29) accidents during October 2011, of which two (2) were fatal accidents and seven (7) were non casualty accidents.

The accidents per category were as follows:

General accidents	12
Transport and mining	7
Fall of ground	1
Machinery	2
Other	0
Non-casualty	7
Total	29

3.2. Details of accidents per mining Groups

	October 2011		Year Progressive		Projected Rate/1000 employees	
	Injured	Fatals	Injured	Fatals	Injured	Fatals
Coal Mines						
Sasol Coal	3	-	30	2	3.47	0.23
Exxaro	3	-	14	3	2.80	0.60
BECSA	1	-	22	-	2.12	-
Kangra Coal	-	-	5	-	5.5	-
Anglo Coal	3	1	24	2	2.92	0.24
Anker Coal	-	-	7	1	9.83	1.40
Xstrata Coal	3	1	22	1	4.23	0.19
Shanduka Coal	-	-	2	-	0.92	-
Total Coal SA	1	-	8	-	3.14	-
Umcebo Mining	-	-	3	-	1.85	-
Kuyasa Mining	-	-	1	-	1.62	-
Coal Of Africa	1	-	10	-	7.94	-
Siphethe Coal	-	-	1	-	3.69	-
Sudor Coal	-	-	1	-	1.60	-
Optimum Coal	-	-	11	-	2.53	-
Private Mines	1	-	11	-	5.26	-
Gold & Platinum						
Harmony Gold	-	-	12	2	5.96	0.99
Aquarius Plat	1	-	14	2	6.82	0.97
Great Basin Gold	1	-	12	-	9.76	-
Pan African Resource	1	-	5	-	2.97	-
Private Mines	-	-	4	-	5.72	-
Other Mines						
Private Mines	1	-	16	1	3.73	0.23
TOTAL	20	2	235	14	3.59	0.21

3.3 ACCIDENT COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	Projected	% Improve
FATALS	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	2			14	13	23	25	23	20	17	-23%
DISABLED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	1	0	0	0	0	0	100%
INJURIES	15	24	25	20	28	24	25	26	22	22			231	293	382	460	334	363	277	5%
NON-CASUALTIES	6	4	7	4	9	8	9	3	7	7			64	78	77	49	75	68	77	3%
TOTAL	21	31	32	24	37	32	37	29	35	29	0	0	309	385	482	534	432	451	371	4%

UNDERGROUND	10	22	19	15	23	12	21	19	19	18			178	216	292	345	295	319	214	1%
SURFACE	10	5	9	5	7	11	9	4	10	6			76	114	131	133	101	99	91	18%
OPENCAST	1	4	4	4	7	9	7	6	6	5			53	55	59	56	36	33	64	-16%
TOTAL	21	31	32	24	37	32	37	29	35	29	0	0	307	385	482	534	432	451	368	4%

FOG	0	6	2	1	2	4	3	4	5	1			28	28	49	80	63	70	34	-29%
MACHINERY	1	3	4	1	5	1	2	5	3	2			27	26	36	61	39	42	32	-28%
T&M	4	4	7	8	7	7	8	7	6	7			65	85	78	115	92	118	78	9%
GENERAL	8	12	9	9	10	10	8	8	12	12			98	148	162	205	142	150	118	23%
OTHER	8	6	10	5	13	10	16	5	9	7			89	98	157	73	96	71	107	-12%
TOTAL	21	31	32	24	37	32	37	29	35	29	0	0	307	385	482	534	432	451	368	4%

COAL	18	19	27	20	30	25	29	21	24	25			238	325	311	322	245	297	286	13%
GOLD	1	6	0	1	4	7	2	3	7	2			33	27	116	87	103	90	40	-53%
PLATINUM	0	5	0	2	1	0	5	3	1	1			18	7	16	47	33	30	22	-224%
OTHER	2	1	5	1	2	0	1	2	3	1			18	26	39	68	51	34	22	13%
TOTAL	21	31	32	24	37	32	37	29	35	29	0	0	307	385	482	534	432	451	368	4%

NOTE: see attached annexure for brief descriptions of accident reports received during October 2011

4. AUDITS, INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

4.1 Inspections: October 2011.

	PLANNED	ACTUAL
Mining inspections	21	19
Occupational Hygiene inspections	12	12
Occupational Medicine inspections	12	15
Machinery inspections	36	31
Statutory equipment inspections	0	1

4.2 Audits: October 2011

	PLANNED	ACTUAL
Health and Safety management systems audit. (Group)	3	3
Occupational Health Audits (Hygiene and Medical)	12	20
Occupational Safety Audits (Mining and Machinery)	29	11

Non conformances found during audits and inspections:

Medical

- Employees working with expired certificates of fitness.

Occupational hygiene

- Mechanical miner gravimetric dust pump left at the waiting place whilst the CM is cutting.
- Improper position of the auxiliary fan used to ventilate the heading.
- Improper installation of scoop brattices.

Engineering

- No conditions or priority in terms of “A”, “B” and “C” specified, under which operators should operate the TMM.
- Operating mobile machinery without valid license.
- Trackless mobile machine left idling and unattended.
- Working at heights without safety harness
- Operators not trained on the lock out and TMM procedure.
- No notices at substations.
- No checklist for forklift.
- Excessive duff accumulation in an underground mine.
- TMM COP not drafted as per machine and according to the guideline.
- Pedestal grinder not fitted with lockout mechanism.

Mining

- Unsafe high wall in opencast boxcuts.
- Reloading site for emulsion explosives in an unsafe place.
- Inadequate explosives management procedure.
- No lightning detectors.
- Substandard support.
- Substandard roof bolt installation.
- Poor explosives control.
- Substandard ventilation.
- Stone dust not up to date.
- Sub standard barring at start of shift examination procedure.

General

- SAMRASS form not signed by the manager.
- First aid boxes not sealed.
- No first aid equipment available.

5. SECTION 54 / 55 INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Compliance notices in terms of Section 55.

Twelve Section 55 instructions were issued in October 2011 and they include the following:

- Personal noise sampling must be conducted.
- All employees must have valid medical fitness certificate.
- Checklist must have hazard classification as required by the trackless mobile machine guideline.
- Lockout must be carried out on the main supply.
- Trackless mobile machine code of practice must be revised.
- Trackless mobile machinery must be locked out according to the lockout procedure.
- Mine must ensure that emergency door at the substation is accessible.
- Mine must provide notice board at the substation.
- Chair lift bottom clearance must comply with the mine health and safety act regulations.
- Guards must comply with the memorandum on belt conveyors.
- Mine must provide a pull wire for a conveyor belt.
- Distribution box must be locked.

5.2 Improvement instruction in terms of Section 54.

No Section 54 improvement instruction was issued in October 2011.

5.3 Stoppage instructions in terms of Section 54.

Six Section 54 stoppage instructions were issued in October 2011 and they include the following;

- Towing of feeder breaker was stopped after an employee was killed.
- Shunting was stopped after an employee was killed.
- Unsafe handling of drill bit in an opencast mine was stopped.
- Conveyors not provided with guards and pull wires were stopped.
- Employee without a license and a checklist was stopped from operating his machinery.
- Employees working without a valid medical fitness certificate were stopped from going underground.

6. EXAMINATIONS

6.1 Mine Overseer' Certificate of Competency

Four Mine Overseer Boards were held during October 2011.

The following persons obtained the certificate of competency:-
TTA Mokitimi, DL Manenzhe, PJ Shabangu, JT Ntumba, ME Shongwe.

6.2 Lampman's and Onsetter's Certificates

No Boards held for Lampsman and Onsetters' Certificates.

7. LEGISLATION

No new legislation updates were received during October 2011.

8. REGIONAL OVERVIEW

8.1 Safety achievements

Landau Colliery - 2000 FFPS - well done.

**LJA BEZUIDENHOUT
PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR
MPUMALANGA REGION**

BRIEF ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION – MPUMALANGA REGION
RECEIVED DURING OCTOBER 2011

1.	The forklift operator was busy inserting the wooden pole under the steel plates; the fork shifted causing the steel plates to slip from the fork and catch his right thumb between the plates and the wooden pole.
2	Whilst hitting rocks with a hammer, he missed the rock and hit the tip grizzly resulting in him losing his balance and fall, the hammer fell onto his right hand.
3	A base plate of a motor blower dropped and caught his left arm in between the motor base plate and blower cubicle frame.
4	During the shift examination an amount of >5.0% Methane was detected. The gas was cleared by installing extending scoop brattice to increase volume of air to the face.
5	He was attempting to lay a pump flat in the water, he lost his footing and as a result he and pump fell over. His right index finger was caught between the pump and the pump column.
6	He was driving a tipper truck loaded with ore on the gravel road from old plant towards a new plant; the truck overturned resulting in a hairline fracture to the lower fibula.
7	2.2% Methane was detected in the section and was cleared.
8	They inhaled smoke and fumes, while attempting to extinguish the fire.
9	She bumped her forehead against the centrifuge steel pipe, while she was cleaning the basement sumps.
10	He was removing a stuck shuttle car at the tip area by pulling it with another shuttle car. His left hand got pinched between the two shuttle cars.
11	He was installing the brattices; he accidentally positioned himself in the tramming route and was struck by the shuttle car.
12	Excessive leaking through a high pressure seal at underground water compartment.
13	Whilst unrolling the dragline cable it hooked out of the slot of cable drum. Trying to place the coupling back he injured his left middle finger.
14	He was cleaning the boiler shop on surface and removed a channel iron from the workshop. When he put the iron on the steel rack his right hand little finger got caught between the steel rack arm and the channel iron.
15	Haul trucks drove into each other at the loading face.
16	He was operating the CM when a shuttle car slid accidentally in his direction due to slippery conditions and caught him against a pillar.
17	While busy installing a vertical spindle pump at CIL area the suspended pump swung and caught his hand against the beam.
18	He was working on top of the spare shuttle car connecting a chain on the bar that was connected to the front end loader used to pull the flight chain. When he had finished he jumped off the shuttle car, injuring his right ankle.
19	He was standing next to the rib side when a piece of shale dislodged from the roof and struck him on the left foot.

20	He stepped over the pipe with his right leg first, When his left leg came forward he felt his knee cap move. He then sat down and repositioned his knee cap.
21	Articulated dump truck overturned onto the cab side.
22	He was in the process of tramping the Loader when he accidentally got himself trapped between the loader and the rib side resulting in him being crushed and sustained multiple injuries.
23	He tripped over a rope attached to a submersible pump installed in the area and fell down on his left arm.
24	He was descending the staircase of change house, slipped and injured his ankle.
25	While transporting a L.H.D from 4 seam to surface in the cage, the L.H.D standing in the cage, moved slightly backwards, when passing the 5 seam landing area the L.H.D was caught on the landing causing damage to the cage roller door and L.H.D towing device.
26	His right thumb was caught between the vent pipe flange and L.H.D basket.
27	The CM was taking out a second lift. A fissure was cut open that contained methane and a methane ignition occurred.

Because managers and employers are required to sign the SAMRASS forms, they are requested to ensure that a brief, meaningful and correct description of the accidents are submitted to assist with the correct presentation of information contained in the short descriptions above.