

SAFETY BULLETIN

DATE: 14 AUGUST 2019

Lack of bunding on accessible edges

This safety bulletin provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

Open edges on stockpiles, tip heads, ramps and dams

Circumstances

During recent inspections, the NSW Resources Regulator has identified that effective controls are not always in place to protect workers to the exposure of driving off open edges, falling from heights or falling into open bodies of water. Open edges on stockpiles, waste dumps, ramps and dams were frequently identified with absent or inconsistent windrows or bunding in place.

Edge, ramp and tipping bunds/windrows are required to ensure the safety of heavy machinery operators.

Bund design and location needs to consider the effects on dump or stockpile stability arising from variations in the composition of material being dumped or stacked, and the height of the largest equipment used in the work area.

Regular inspections need to be conducted to ensure bunds are in place and are maintained to specification.

Recommendations

1. Review windrow and bunding requirements specified in the principal hazard management plan for roads and other vehicle operating areas.
2. Ensure appropriately designed, constructed and maintained bunds are in place on ramps, benches and dumps.
3. Ensure ramp edges are adequately bunded to reduce the risk of falls and edge failure.
4. Conduct regular workplace inspections to identify fall hazards, including inspection of stockpiles, tip heads and dams for open and accessible edges.

5. Ensure all workers are trained and assessed as competent in safe stockpile operation.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety bulletin and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety bulletin should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed in the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

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Figure 1 An example of a ramp up to a bench with an open edge with insufficient controls in place to protect workers from exposure of driving earthmoving machinery off from a height.



Figure 2 An example of an access road with an open edge, with insufficient controls in place to protect workers from exposure of driving into the open body of water.



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