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Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety

WorkSafe Western Australia Mines Safety

Monthly incident insights

WorkSafe Mines Safety

November 2025 edition

Issued 18 December 2025

213 notifiable incidents in November

158 reportable incidents in November

3 notifiable incidents compared to October

23 reportable incidents compared to October

4 Four summarised incidents in this special edition

Note: Correct as of 12 December 2025.

Report a notifiable incident to
1800 678 198

Report all incidents online
SRS – Safety Regulation System

Traffic management and vehicle interaction

Traffic management is a critical risk in Western Australian mining operations. Too frequently, WA mine operators notify WorkSafe Mines Safety of incidents involving light vehicles, heavy haulage equipment and other mobile plant. These incidents include collisions, rollovers and uncontrolled movements. These incidents have the potential to cause deaths and serious injuries.

Despite varying circumstances, there is a recurring theme: the interactions between vehicles, equipment and pedestrians are leading factors in high-potential incidents. These incidents often result from losses of control, limited visibility or mechanical defects. WA mine operators can reduce the frequency of such incidents by developing more effective plans, employing more robust controls and implementing more rigorous maintenance practices.

This special edition highlights relevant incidents, identifies common causes and provides key takeaways. WorkSafe Mines Safety encourages WA mine operators to strengthen their traffic management plans and create safer workplaces.

Incident snapshots

- Integrated tool carrier uncontrolled movement—a loss of service brake pressure on a decline resulted in an integrated tool carrier rolling approximately 4.8m backwards before its operator steered it into a wall. No injuries.
- Light vehicle rear-end collision with a road train—a light vehicle impacted the rear trailer of a slow-moving road train. Significant damage but no injuries.

- Road train rollover—a road train rolled over after its driver made an evasive manoeuvre to avoid another vehicle. No injuries.
- Light vehicle rollover—a light vehicle veered off a haul road, contacted a windrow and rolled onto its side. Its operator underwent precautionary scans.

Emerging patterns

- Losses of control/uncontrolled movements—brake failures, rolling mobile plant on declines and evasive manoeuvres leading to rollovers feature prominently.
- Light vehicle vulnerability—there's an over-representation of light vehicles in collisions and

run-off-road events, particularly on haul roads where road conditions, windrows and speed differentials with heavy equipment increase risk.

- Visibility and line-of-sight issues—rear-end collisions and evasive actions imply insufficient communications between operators, limited sightlines, operator distractions and reduced situational awareness.
- Road designs and conditions—haul-road edges, windrow delineations, poor road surfaces and steep gradients are common contributory factors.

- Brake and mechanical integrity—the frequency of incidents involving brake malfunctions or losses of brake pressure highlights the need for consistent inspection, maintenance and pre-start verification routines.

Key takeaways

Light vehicles

- Operate to conditions because haul roads change rapidly and light vehicles have limited protection in collisions.
- Ensure the clear delineation of windrows, edges and intersections, particularly at night or in dusty conditions.
- Reinforce defensive driving practices and minimum approach distances to heavy equipment.

Haulage vehicles/road trains

- Maintain clear lines of sight and sufficient stopping distances, particularly when speed differentials are high.
- Review road geometry, such as crests, curves, and Y-intersections, to reduce blind spots and increase line-of-sight distances.
- Emphasise positive radio communications for all interactions, particularly approaching/overtaking scenarios.

Mobile plant (surface and underground)

- Apply safe parking practices where vehicles parked on sloping surfaces are turned into sidewalls underground or windrows at surface mining and quarry operations.
- Verify the condition of service brakes and hydraulic systems during pre-start routines because losses of pressure can lead to catastrophic rollbacks.
- Establish that operators understand gradient-specific risks and know the emergency procedures for uncontrolled movements.

Site traffic management

- Update traffic management plans regularly to ensure that they accurately reflect road designs, delineations, signs, vehicle separation controls, onboard driver performance monitoring and human factors.
- Perform regular inspections to confirm road surface conditions, traffic controls, windrow heights, water applications, lighting and visibility are safe.
- Use supervision, training and coaching to address human and organisational factors, fatigue,

distraction, complacency and inattention.

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