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# Monthly incident insights

## WorkSafe Mines Safety

March 2026 edition

Issued 23 April 2026

**192** notifiable incidents in March

**134** reportable incidents in March



**7**

notifiable incidents compared to February



**37**

reportable incidents compared to February

**3**

Three summarised incidents in this edition

Note: Correct as of 16 April 2026.

Report a notifiable incident to  
**1800 678 198**

Report all incidents online  
[SRS – Safety Regulation System](#)

## Reportable incidents

### Consistent contributors to light-vehicle rollovers

Light vehicles are essential to Western Australian mining operations, but they continue to pose significant safety risks, particularly when operated on unsealed roads over long distances.



Recently, WorkSafe has received reports of multiple light-vehicle rollover incidents on WA mine sites, resulting in one fatality and several serious injuries. While investigations into these incidents are ongoing, initial observations and historical trends point to a consistent set of contributing causes, including:

- human and organisational factors, such as fatigue, training gaps, driver distractions and inappropriate speeds;
- traffic management issues, such as road design, layout and maintenance deficiencies;
- environmental conditions, such as wet or degraded road surfaces and reduced visibility due to sun glare;
- operating vehicles on unsealed roads over long distances.

These incidents reinforce the need for WA mine operators to maintain structured, risk-based approaches to light-vehicle management, especially in challenging environmental or operational conditions.



## Takeaways

- **Develop workforce capability:** Train workers thoroughly, verify their competency and enforce compliance with site traffic management rules and procedures.
- **Conduct proactive road upkeep:** Schedule and complete regular inspections and maintenance, including grading, drainage management, signage checks and ensuring road markings remain clear and visible.
- **Enforce seatbelt use:** Maintain seatbelts in safe working condition and require they be worn at all times when operating light vehicles.
- **Regulate driving speeds:** Match vehicle speeds to road conditions, especially when transitioning between different surface types and approaching corners, curves and ramps.
- **Implement fatigue controls:** Apply and enforce fatigue management plans to ensure workers remain alert, rested and fit for duty.
- **Integrate layered risk controls:** Combine engineering, administrative and behavioural measures to effectively reduce rollover risks.
- **Assess vehicle modifications:** Review any additions or changes, such as toolboxes or mounted equipment, to confirm impacts on stability, braking systems and vehicle carrying capacities.
- **Maintain vehicle roadworthiness:** Keep vehicles in safe operating condition, including monitoring tyre wear and inflation pressures appropriate for road types and speeds, noting that some tyre designs require reduced speed limits.



## Summary

Light-vehicle rollovers remain one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities in the WA mining industry. These events typically arise from a combination of contributing factors, including human behaviour, road conditions and environmental influences. Reducing rollover risks requires comprehensive, risk-based approaches that integrate robust traffic management, consistent road maintenance, high operator competency and effective fatigue management. Together, these controls play a critical role in preventing rollover incidents and safeguarding workers.

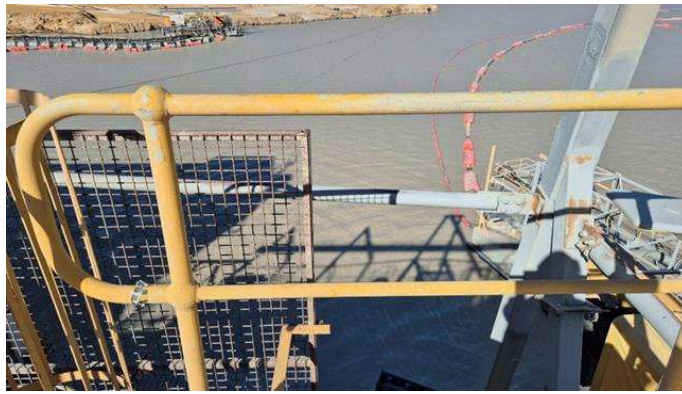
### Scaffolder uses handrail as inappropriate anchor point

Work at height remains a high-risk activity in WA mining operations, especially during scaffolding tasks where workers frequently install and remove temporary structures and components. A recent incident underscored the dangers of using inappropriate anchor points for fall protection.

While working at height on a structure, a scaffolder was connected to a handrail using a safety harness. The scaffolder was in the process of removing a drop-in handrail, which would create an opening to the level below.

The lanyard was attached to the top rail of the handrail, which was neither a fixed nor a designated anchor point. This created a risk that the connection point could shift along the rail or be removed entirely during the task. The lack of a secure, rated anchorage system exposed the scaffolder to a significant fall hazard.

This incident highlights the importance of connecting fall-arrest systems to appropriate, designed and rated anchor points, particularly during the modification or removal of scaffold components.



## Takeaways

- **Use rated anchor points:** Connect fall-arrest systems exclusively to anchorages designed, installed and certified to withstand fall forces.
- **Anticipate changing conditions:** Assess how work tasks (for example, removing scaffold components) may affect the integrity of anchor points during jobs.
- **Reduce fall distances:** Configure systems so workers travel the shortest possible distance before arresting a fall.
- **Conduct comprehensive risk assessments:** Secure appropriate approvals for all high-risk work at height.
- **Verify worker competency:** Confirm that people performing scaffolding or working at height are trained, competent and familiar with site procedures and safe work method statements.
- **Evaluate alternative access methods:** Determine whether equipment such as boom-type elevating work platforms provides a safer option after identifying hazards and applying relevant controls.
- **Maintain effective supervision and oversight:** Provide adequate supervision to ensure safe systems of work are implemented and consistently followed.

## Summary

Using inappropriate or non-rated anchor points during work at height exposes workers to significant fall risks, especially during the modification or removal of scaffold components. Effective planning, the use of compliant anchorage systems and competent supervision all play critical roles in ensuring fall-protection systems function as intended and workers are not exposed to avoidable hazards.

## Robotic firefighting technology contains potential truck fire

Engineering controls and remote technologies can significantly reduce risks to workers during emergency response activities on WA mine sites. A recent incident shows how robotic firefighting equipment successfully contained a potential haul-truck fire without exposing workers to the hazards of frontline firefighting.

Workers identified suspected smoke coming from an autonomous haul truck and immediately reported it to pit control, which directed the vehicle to park in a safe location away from the main haul road. As smoke remained visible, the site initiated its emergency procedures, stopped its operations and established an exclusion zone to protect its workers.

The site's emergency response team deployed a remote-operated robotic firefighting and monitoring unit. The robot approached the hazard, assessed conditions and applied firefighting measures while its operators stayed safely outside the exclusion zone.

Using the robotic system allowed the team to bring the situation under control and prevent the hazard from escalating. Crucially, the response eliminated exposure of emergency personnel to the risks of a developing vehicle fire while also preserving the asset.

### Takeaways

- **Implement engineering controls:** Remote-operated firefighting technologies significantly reduce the exposure of emergency responders to high-risk environments.
- **Remove workers from lines of fire:** Create exclusion zones and use remote equipment where practicable to eliminate the need for firefighters to approach hazardous situations.
- **Report equipment abnormalities early:** Prompt notification and controlled shutdown of equipment help prevent fire-related hazards from escalating.

- **Integrate advanced technology into emergency response plans:** Robotic systems offer safer options for monitoring, suppression and hazard assessment.
- **Strengthen preparedness:** Ensure emergency response teams are trained and equipped to deploy specialised technologies during high-risk incidents.

### Summary

Robotic firefighting technology offers an effective engineering control for fires involving large mobile equipment. These systems remove firefighters from lines of fire and allow crews to assess and control hazards remotely, sharply reducing risk while protecting valuable assets. This incident underscores how integrating remote technologies into emergency response strategies can benefit safety outcomes.

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