

Queensland mine shut down after grader driver dies in underground collision

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PHOTO: A helicopter lands at Mackay hospital with two people who were injured in the mine accident. (ABC News: Angel Parsons)

A grader driver has died following an underground collision at Anglo American's Moranbah North mine in central Queensland.

Ten other workers who were in the personnel carrier that collided with the grader were injured.

Paramedics were called to the incident at the mine, south-west of Mackay, just before 4:00pm AEST.

Anglo American confirmed in a statement that the incident happened "in the access drift close to the surface of the mine".

"The driver of the grader received immediate treatment on site and was then transported by ambulance to hospital, but has tragically passed away."

"The 10 employees who were in the other vehicle immediately received medical treatment on site for injuries and subsequently two people have been transported by helicopter to Mackay and two people to Rockhampton for further treatment.

"The other six people were assessed on site but needed no further treatment."

Most of the injured workers reported neck, back and shoulder pain and suspected spinal injuries.

Two rescue helicopters were dispatched from Mackay and Rockhampton.

The company said the cause of the incident was not clear and it would carry out a full investigation.

"We have notified the relevant authorities and stopped production at the mine, in line with our emergency response procedure," the company said.

Key points:

- Mine operator Anglo American says the driver of the grader was taken to hospital, but has since died
- Most of the injured workers have reported neck, back and shoulder pain and suspected spinal injuries
- The company says the cause of the incident is not clear and it will carry out a full investigation

"Our focus is on continuing to respond to the emergency situation, including the treatment and care of injured employees and supporting the affected families and colleagues."

The Moranbah North mine began operating in 1998 and employs more than 600 people.

Topics: workplace, accidents, disasters-and-accidents, mining-industry, industry, emergency-incidents, business-economics-and-finance, moranbah-4744, qld, australia, mackay-4740, rockhampton-4700, brisbane-4000

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