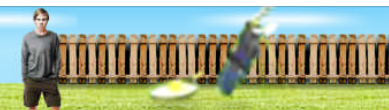


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Witnesses believe 4WD skid on road

Di Stanley | 4th September 2010

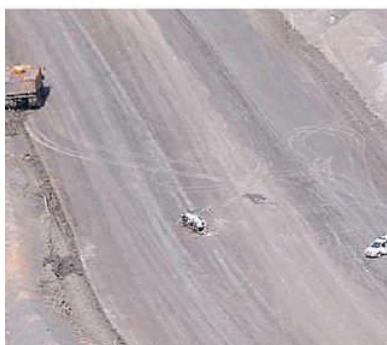
WITNESSES to a fatality at Westfarmers Curragh Mine said they saw a four-wheel drive skid on a stretch of unsealed haul road which may have just been dampened by a water truck.

The crash claimed the life of James Brunswick, a 55-year-old contractor from Woombye on Tuesday.

Witness statements to police investigating the fatality on ramp 16 at the mine described the Toyota troop carrier beginning a rear skid on a stretch of unsealed haul road.

It is believed a water truck had just dampened down that section of road.

The vehicle lost traction and slid sideways before it overbalanced and rolled as it hit a drier section of dirt.



The site of the fatality at Curragh Mine on Tuesday. It's believed the four-wheel drive was following a water truck.

The three survivors from the fatal crash crawled from the wreckage through a shattered windscreen to discover their critically injured colleague pinned underneath the vehicle.

Mr Brunswick, a Salmon Earthmoving Services employee, suffered a heart attack and was pronounced dead at Blackwater Hospital at 12.25pm.

The vehicle was driven by a Rockhampton man, 30, with the two other men, aged 23 and 51, in the front passenger and rear driver seats.

Blackwater investigating officer Senior Constable Ben Holdcroft said: "Witnesses stated the vehicle became engaged in a rear-wheel skid. This rear-wheel skid resulted in a series of events that culminated in the vehicle rolling and landing on its right side."

The three remaining Salmon staffers, who suffered minor injuries, have given statements to police.

Snr Const Holdcroft said investigations were ongoing and a full report would be prepared for the coroner.

Independent investigations are being carried out by Curragh, the Department of Mines and Energy and Salmon Earthmoving.

The mine has reopened after ceasing operations for 24 hours as a mark of respect.

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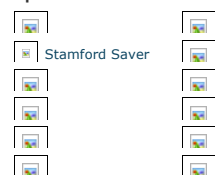
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