



**ALERT | ALERT | ALERT | ALERT | ALERT**

Coal Inspectorate | Alert | No.406 V 1 | 27 March 2022

# Fatal accident underground working with suspended load

## What happened?

Coal mine workers at the Moranbah North underground mine were conducting infrastructure activities involving the dismantling of conveyor equipment underground. This required the movement of a suspended load, using block and tackle, lever hoist (cumalong) and slings. The activity at the time of the incident involved a heavy load of an estimated four tonnes. The load shifted during the activity and resulted in fatal injuries to a coal mine worker.

## How did it happen?

Inspectors are investigating this accident to identify its nature and cause.

## Key issues

- The suspended load shifted in an uncontrolled manner.

## Recommendations

All site senior executives should:

- Ensure the safety and health management system (SHMS) provides effective preventive critical controls for lifting and managing suspended loads, to prevent uncontrolled movement of suspended loads.
- Verify the SHMS provides for mitigating critical controls, to ensure coal mine workers are not in the line of fire of any actions resulting from an uncontrolled movement of a suspended load.

- Verify that coal mine workers required to conduct lifting activities have the appropriate demonstrated competencies relevant to the environment in which the task is being undertaken.

*Investigations are ongoing and further information may be published as it becomes available. The information in this publication is what is known at the time of writing.*

*We issue Safety Notices to draw attention to the occurrence of a serious incident, raise awareness of risks, and prompt assessment of your existing controls.*

**Authorised by Peter Newman - Chief Inspector – Coal**

**Contact:** Stephen Smith, Regional inspector of Mines , +61 7 4999 8510

**[QldMinesInspectorate@rshq.qld.gov.au](mailto:QldMinesInspectorate@rshq.qld.gov.au)**

Issued by Resources Safety & Health Queensland

Safety: This information is issued to promote safety through experience. It is not to be taken as a statement of law and must not be construed to waive or modify any legal obligation.

---

Placement: Place this announcement on noticeboards and ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy.

All information on this page (Fatal accident underground working with suspended load - <https://www.rshq.qld.gov.au/safety-notices/mines/fatal-accident-underground-working-with-suspended-load>) is correct as of time of printing (8 May 2022 4:47 pm).