



Hazard Alert

Boosting Vehicles

In the overnight hours of July 22–23, 2007, a 62-year old male mine worker died of injuries he sustained in a mine mobile equipment incident. He was working alone at the time. The mechanism of injury was a fire ignited immediately by, or subsequent to, the uncontrolled movement of a loader during maintenance, which crushed the decedent's lower extremities. The cause of death was thermal burns and inhalation injury.

The immediate cause of the event, though difficult to conclude with certainty, was uncontrolled reverse movement of the loader (as a result of the improvised starting of the loader), resulting in the victim being trapped and crushed beneath the wheel of the equipment. The investigation with regards to the ignition source of the fire was inconclusive.

Contributing Factors

- Safety equipment (wheel chocks) not placed to immobilize the loader
- Parking brake not applied
- Improper electrical boosting of the vehicle battery
- Improvised starting of equipment from a location other than the operator's cab
- Bypassing interlocks to allow starting of the loader while it was in gear
- Working alone

If you have information that would benefit the health and safety of the British Columbia mining industry or have comments or concerns regarding this topic, please contact

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Mining and Minerals Division

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

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*RIGHT: Hough D 100
Payloader that the worker
was attempting to boost.*



Safe Work Practices

- All mobile rubber-tired equipment over 7000 kg are to have two wheel chocks to be used when necessary.
- Lock-out and tag all equipment while working on or near it.
- Develop procedures for electrical boosting of equipment.
- Ensure all workers are trained in procedures and that the training is documented.
- Equipment must be maintained in good working order, and log books must be used to communicate equipment troubles and repairs.
- Start and operate mobile equipment only from the operating cab.
- Special procedures for working alone must be developed and unconditionally followed.

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