

Access over pit face results in recreational ATV accident

Synopsis

On Tuesday September 3rd, 2019, at approximately 15:45 hrs. a lone recreational ATV rider was injured when they drove over an edge of a nearby sand pit excavation face.

While riding approximately 15km on the TransCanada Trail, the rider departed the trail. The loader operator working in the pit witnessed the fall. The ATV rider was air-lifted to hospital.

Findings

After the incident was reported to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation as per the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia, an investigation, pursuant to Section 7 of the *Mines Act*, was initiated by the Chief Inspector of Mines (CIM).

The following information was identified:

- ATV driver's direction of travel was northerly, eliminating visibility and sun glare as contributing factors.
- The ATV driver was observed to be travelling in a straight line.
- There were no tire skid marks observed before the ATV went over the pit face
- Brakes were found to be in an operable state during examination after the incident.
- Height of the pit face at time of incident exceeded regulations.
- An EMLI Inspector issued an order in 2016 regarding the pit face exceeding height regulations.
- There was a lack of signage or access restrictions along the TransCanada trail warning of the mine site.
- There was unsecured access to the stockpiles.



FIGURE 1. ATV



FIGURE 1. Pit Face

Outcome

The following two recommendations were made following completion of the investigation:

- To direct the mine to review inadvertent access into its Sand and Gravel Mines from recognized designated recreational trails, implementing signage and access restrictions as needed.
- To direct the mine to review pits for excessively steep and/or high faces, utilizing benching where necessary to gain compliance with the code.

The site contractors installed berms and signage along the TransCanada trail after the incident.