



HAZARD ALERT

The investigation by the Chief Inspector of Mines into the May 2006 accident which resulted in four fatalities at the Sullivan Mine in southeastern British Columbia, Canada, is ongoing. Preliminary investigation has identified a potential hazard that may exist at any operation where enclosed sampling locations are located downstream of mine waste dumps.

The atmosphere within one of the water sampling buildings located at the toe of a reclaimed mine waste dump was severely oxygen depleted.

Oxygen depletion happens when oxidation of rock or decomposition of organic matter occurs.

Sampling work had been conducted on a routine basis at this location for four years without incident prior to this accident occurring.

It has become evident through the investigation that this oxygen depleted atmosphere outgassed from the mine waste dump to the sampling location. How or why the outgassing occurred is still under investigation.

It is important that all operations immediately check any enclosures where heavier than air atmospheres could accumulate to confirm the existence of a safe working environment. It is equally important that all operations procedures are reviewed to ensure locations checks are conducted on an ongoing basis.

In addition to this Hazard Alert the Chief Inspector of Mines for British Columbia has issued a directive to British Columbia mines for immediate action. Please refer to Chief Inspector's directive dated May 25, 2006.

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