Mines Inspectorate

Safety Alert Issue No.: CIM/03/2024 Date: 14 February 2024

High Potential Incident - Light Vehicle Overturn

Prevalent reoccurrences of mobile equipment incidents within the mining industry in recent times have become alarming. In one of the mines in PNG, a light vehicle used for the transportation of explosives overturned when the driver had problem starting the vehicle and decided to push-start down the ramp. As the vehicle went down the ramp, the brakes did not engage, hence the driver swerved the vehicle onto the ore pad and its left wheels went up the stockpile. This caused the vehicle to tip over, landing on its right side. Fortunately, there were no personal injuries sustained.



Photos 1 & 4: Top view of light vehicle Photo 3: Fronth & Bottom view of light vehicle

Photo 2: Back view of light vehicle

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS:

- Poor preventative maintenance regime
- Light vehicle braking system failure
- Lack of prestart inspection by the driver
- Lack of driver experience and competency
- Unsafe driver behavior and practices
- Lack of provision of fit for purpose light vehicle
- Vehicle went past its useful life (Aging equipment)

NOTE: This safety alert may be displayed at conspicuous places within the project area and the information widely disseminated amongst all concerned.

