

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Hunter Valley shotfirers light vehicle explosion

On February 6 in the Hunter Valley an unexplained explosion occurred on a shotfirers light vehicle that was carrying boosters and detonators. This resulted in the injury of a mine employee and substantial damage to the vehicle.



A detailed investigation involving forensic consultants, Mine and Orica personnel determined the most likely chain of events to be:

- Detonators and boosters had been transported in close proximity on the rear tray of the light vehicle and not separately in the designated magazines fitted to the light vehicle.
- Initiation is most likely to have occurred as a result of a burning cigarette butt starting a fire in the box of detonators, causing at least one detonator to explode, initiating a booster which in turn shock initiated the neighbouring boosters.

This event highlights the energy contained in initiating explosives and the danger of taking unnecessary risks and not following procedures.

GUARD AGAINST COMPLACENCY AROUND EXPLOSIVES, INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE CAN BE AVOIDED IF CORRECT PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE AND FOLLOWED.

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