

## Worker seriously injured by a rock in a drawpoint

A worker was using a remotely controlled Cavo to draw off mineral material in a level 10 drawpoint of the underground mine. The drawpoint was about 6 metres long. There were four or five rocks larger than one metre in diameter on the floor that could not be moved with the Cavo. The worker got a Hilti hand-drill to drill holes in the rocks to blast them with explosives. The worker was in the drawpoint, moving towards the worksite, when a rock fell on him and seriously injured him. It took five workers to get him out; he was then taken to hospital.

### Serious Accident

**Date:** January 25, 2014

**Category:** Underground mining

**Task:** Mineral extraction

**Position:** Drawing worker

### Causes of the Accident

- Falling rocks from the hanging wall of the drawpoint.
- The worker was exposed to a risk of falling rocks when he moved to the end of the drawpoint.
- The work procedure was inappropriate for secondary blasting.

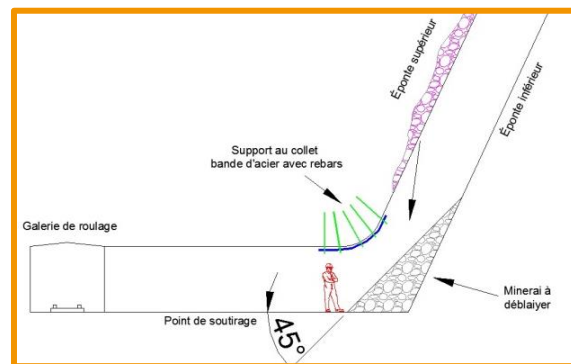


Photo source: Underground mine

### Preventative Measures

#### Analyze the risks associated with exposure to falling rocks in drawpoints

- Never expose a worker in an open worksite or in front of an open raise.
- Establish safe work procedures for work performed in drawpoints.
- Establish a safe work procedure for secondary blasting in drawpoints.
- Favour the use of remotely controlled equipment.
- Keep the intersection between the bottom of the worksite and the drawpoint full for as long as possible.

#### Train and inform workers about the risks and procedures associated with drawpoints

- Train workers on safe work procedures.
- Supervise workers to ensure they follow procedures and respect the maximum exposure limit when they are near an open worksite.
- Install visual indicators for the safety limit that must not be crossed in the drawpoint.
- Check the field conditions ("carte de travail") before executing any task.

## Additional Information

### Other documents

- Mario St-Pierre, CSST. *Présentation d'incidents et d'accidents récents du secteur minier*. Presentation given at APSM colloquium on October 19, 2014. Slide show. Val-d'Or. 44 pp.
  - Available online at <http://aspmine.qc.ca/gestion/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/MStPierreAccidentsminiers.pdf>
- CSST & APSM, 2013. *Témoignage de Sileymane Thiam : sécurité dans les mines*. DVD. Québec. 6 min. Code: DV-001088
  - Available online at <http://www.centredoc.csst.qc.ca/Zones/?fn=ViewNotice&q=221232>
- Government of Queensland. *Safe Work near Drawpoints in Underground Metalliferous Mines*. March 2008. Australia. QGN13
  - Available online at [http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/mines-safety-health/guidance\\_note13.pdf](http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/mines-safety-health/guidance_note13.pdf)
- Government of Queensland. *Fatal Accident – Miner Struck By Rock Deflecting Out of Stope*. March 2005. Australia. No. 64
  - Available online at [http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/inspectorate/incident\\_report064.pdf](http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/assets/inspectorate/incident_report064.pdf)
- Department of Mines of Western Australia. *Significant Incident Report – Stope Draw-Point (Mill Hole) – Fatal Accident*. February 1992. Australia. No. 29
  - Available online at [http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Significant\\_Incident\\_Reports/MS\\_GMP\\_SIR\\_029stopedrawpointfatal.pdf](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Significant_Incident_Reports/MS_GMP_SIR_029stopedrawpointfatal.pdf)
- Department Mines of Western Australia. *Safety Bulletin – Vertical Opening Safety Practice*. April 1990. Australia. No 3.
  - Available online at [http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Bulletins/MS\\_GMP\\_SB\\_03verticalopeningsafety.pdf](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/Bulletins/MS_GMP_SB_03verticalopeningsafety.pdf)

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