

## MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FOR DOZER DRIVER

As a 113-tonne weighed bulldozer falls into an unmarked hole  
– Adam Cross, June 12, 2014

A bulldozer weighing 113-tonne ran straight into an unmarked test hole which filled with water. The horrific incident took place late last year at the Rio Tinto's Bengalla mine which situated near Muswellbrook. The driver was in the dozer when it fell straight into the unmarked hole, and the whole cabin flooded, but the driver escaped it by levering the door by using his foot.



According to one report by the Mine Safety Investigation Unit, the supervisors did not know about the existence of this test hole, and even the inspections were unable to figure out about the hazard. The incident termed as “serious” and the one with “potential for harm.” The reports suggest that the main reason behind this accident was that this unmarked test hole filled with water due to heavy rain which led to this unfortunate incident. According to the reports, the bulldozer fell into the hole when the driver was trying to check the depth of the tunnel.

Some reports revealed that the driver was wet and there was less visibility because it was raining at that time. The windows of the dozer, however, were cleared. Furthermore, the reports suggest that the preventive measures which now taken, since the incident took place, are to identify other potential hazards and are not used to test these holes.



Such an incident has not occurred for the very first time in the hunter; it has also happened in the past. Back in 2011, another Rio Tinto-owned dozer at the Mount Thorley Warkworth mine fell right into an unmarked sump while reversing. The driver was trapped inside the cabin before it nearly submerged inside water. These types of accidents can prevent if necessary precautions prepared before the incident took place..

Source: <https://www.theherald.com.au/story/2248616/bengalla-mine-dozer-accident-serious-report/>