



## Helmet Falls Off Operator

### WHAT HAPPENED?

Whilst performing blasting operations at approximately 25m, the operator felt the chin strap of his helmet slide out from under his chin and his helmet begin to slide forward off his head. He has attempted to flick his head back to correct the helmet but it was too late and the helmet has fallen off his head to ground, in the drop zone.

One of the four attachment points where the chin strap clips to the helmet harness had cracked approximately a month prior to this incident. The clip eventually failed in this instance causing the chin strap to come loose and the helmet to slip.



### IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- Replacement helmet hoisted up to the operator.
- Investigation commenced.

### ROOT CAUSE

- Damage to helmet / broken clip, which wasn't taken out of service at the time.
- Non-Compliance (continuing to use defective equipment).

### LEARNINGS

- There is a potential point of weakness on the 3M SecureFit Safety Helmet X5000 where the chin strap attaches to the harness. This point should be checked prior to each use for wear and tear.
- All PPE should be checked for integrity prior to use and any equipment or PPE that is showing signs of deterioration or breaking needs to be replaced. PPE is the last line of defence for an individual so it is critical that it is well maintained.
- The method of storing PPE can leave it susceptible to incidental damage either during transit or during the storage process itself, reinforcing the need to check it every time it is used.

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