

AUSTRALIAN ROCKFALL RESEARCH PHASE II PROJECT REPORT

ACG Research Report No. ACG:1018-05

MERIWA Project No. M360

ROCKFALL: “An uncontrolled fall of ground of significant size in an entry area, or an uncontrolled fall of ground of any size that causes (or potentially causes) injury or damage.”

BACKGROUND

The first ACG report on “Rockfall Research” was produced in 2001. With industry support, the second phase of the research project, based on an expanded database of almost 800 rockfalls, offers an insight into the updated and revised findings.

SUMMARY

The report found that since 1997/98, rockfall reporting improved significantly throughout industry. However, more can be undertaken by mines to record the size of the rockfall, support status and distance from active face.

Due to changes in development mining practices, rockfall risk has reduced significantly (75-80%) in terms of the number of annual rockfall injuries. However, statistics indicate no further improvements since 1999.

This report discusses the tasks most at risk, rockfall injuries which occurred during installation of ground support and away from the active development mining face.

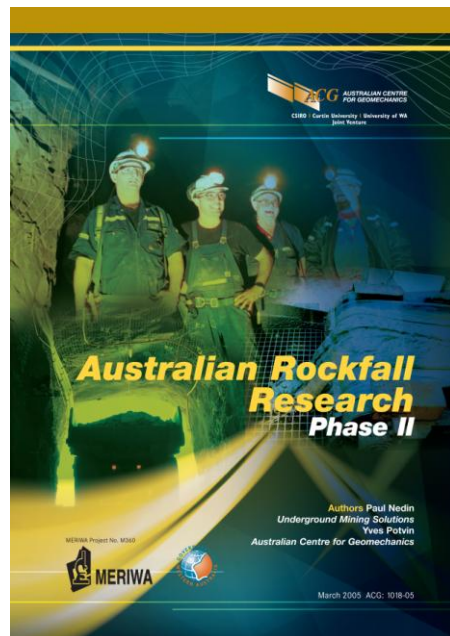
Flexible risk management rather than a ‘one-fits-all’ solution was the project conclusion. The project drew on the new knowledge to develop tools to assist mining operations to implement efficient rockfall risk management systems.

CONTENT

Rockfall Database; Analysis of Rockfall Trends Away from Active Mining Faces; Key Findings; Analysis of Personnel Exposure to Rockfalls Near Active Faces Using Process Mapping; Rockfall Risk Management and Control; Tools to Assist the Development of an Effective Risk Control Strategy; Summary and Appendices.

READERSHIP

- Geotechnical engineers, project managers, rock mechanics engineers, mine planners and industry consultants and suppliers.
- Mining personnel involved with the planning, design and operation of underground mines.
- Researchers, academics and postgraduates in mining engineering.



AUTHORS: Yves Potvin, Australian Centre for Geomechanics and Mr Paul Nedin, Underground Mining Solutions.

The final project report is available for sale from the ACG. To order, please complete the order form overleaf.

PROJECT SPONSORS

BHP Billiton, Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd, MPI Mines, Newmont Australia Ltd, Placer Dome Asia Pacific, Perilya Limited, Rio Tinto, Sons of Gwalia, WMC Resources Limited, Xstrata and MERIWA.



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