

LEADING SAFETY STANDARDS FOR MINE SITES

Minecorp manufactures, distributes and installs light vehicle safety equipment to protect employees working in harsh environments across Australian and international mine sites.

Each Minecorp-equipped vehicle is safe, robust and compliant, backed by extensive research and development. Minecorp fit-outs are designed to comply with site regulations to get vehicles onto mining sites quickly and efficiently.



Complete vehicle fit-outs for mine sites



PREVALENCE OF 4WD ROLL OVERS

A study by Victoria's peak motoring group (RACV), shows that drivers of four wheel drive vehicles are more than three times likely to die in a roll over crash than those in ordinary passenger cars.

The prevalence of roll overs in non-urban environments is also higher. 44 percent of occupant fatalities occur in rural Western Australia and 54 percent in the Northern Territory.

"This places mining operators, their contractors and employees at increased risk as the most common vehicles used on sites, four wheel drives, are typically driven in non-urban environments. The higher centre of gravity, increased capacity, rough terrain and driver fatigue also increases the likelihood of a four wheel drive roll over in a mining situation," Nic Kitchen, Sales and Marketing Director, Minecorp.

POOR ROOF STRENGTH OF 4WDS

To date, little has been done by way of testing to prove the roof strength of popular light vehicles used on mine sites. In addition:

- There are currently no Australian Design Rules for roof strength
- 5 Star ANCAP vehicles do not have built in ROPS
- Roof testing with a nominated performance criteria or strength-to-weight ratio (SWR 2.5) is not a requirement of 5 star until 2014 and is not sufficient until 2016 (SWR 3.25)

"The fact is that despite their being no ADRs for roof strength, we know that the roof of a 4WD will crush when it is overturned and compromise the occupants' survival space," Nic Kitchen.

ROLL OVER FACTS

In a roll over, roof crush occurs when the vehicle's roof and pillars come into contact with the ground and fail to withstand the weight of the overturned vehicle.

The severity of occupant injury may be reduced if quality seatbelts are fitted correctly and are being worn at the time of impact, and side curtain air-bags are in place and deploy efficiently, although neither initiative protect the occupants' survival space.

"The best way to save occupants during a 4WD rollover is with a purpose-designed system that reinforces the roof of the vehicle. That's why we developed the Minecorp Safety Cell," Nic Kitchen.

SAVING LIVES ON MINE SITES

When quality roll over protection systems (ROPS) are fitted to a vehicle, they minimise the effect of roof crush.

"ROPS may protect mine site employees from serious injury and or death," Nic Kitchen.

The ROPS provide much needed strength to the B and C pillars of the vehicle when it is overturned and maintain the vehicle's structural integrity.

The majority of safety-conscious mine operators and contractors have enforced the use of ROPS for light vehicles in the resource industry.

"We know that including ROPS into mine safety vehicles maximises occupants' safety. The ROPS need to be manufactured with the right strength and flexibility to absorb the energy created by the accident to protect the occupants," Nic Kitchen.

YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

"Did you know that employee safety is the responsibility of all mine operators, owners and managers and breaches can incur a negative legal outcome?," Nic Kitchen.

New provisions in the Road Safety Act 1986 mean that from 30 September 2005 the chain of responsibility also applies to mass and dimension limits, and load restraint requirements as well.

"Light vehicle safety fit-outs and quality ROPS on mine vehicles demonstrate an organisation's commitment to safety – they protect lives and protect employees, managers and directors against potential or perceived safety breaches," Nic Kitchen.

THE MINECORP DIFFERENCE

Minecorp invests in extensive research and development to deliver premium quality products with innovative designs that enhance the safety integrity of light vehicles.

Minecorp's products include roll over protection systems (ROPS), steel and alloy tray bodies, service boxes, bull bars, suspension systems, high visibility lighting and electrical systems.

Each product is fit for purpose, robust and light weight. Products have been designed to maximise occupant safety and enhance the safety, performance and practicality of light vehicles.

ABOUT MINECORP

Minecorp is an Australian owned and operated company with operations across Australia as well as Saudi Arabia, New Caledonia, Africa, Laos, South America, Papua New Guinea and Mongolia.

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ROPS SAVED MY LIFE

ONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN FINE WEATHER, ROB TURNER, SITE SERVICE TECHNICIAN WITH PHOENIX DIESEL MAINTENANCE, SET OUT ON HIS 850KM, TWICE-WEEKLY COMMUTE FROM WORK TO HOME.

Out of nowhere, an oncoming vehicle strayed onto Rob's side of the highway and hit him head on. Rob rolled three and a half times before his 4WD landed on its side across the road.

One of Rob's first reactions when he got out of the rolled vehicle was to ring his boss
"Your ROPS just saved my life!"

Phoenix Diesel Maintenance installs additional vehicle safety equipment, such as the **Minecorp Roll Over Protection System (ROPS)**, to minimise the risk of employee injury.

"We want to protect our employees and provide them with the safest workplace possible. We choose **Minecorp** for our vehicle fit-outs because they listen to us, give us a high quality product backed by research and development and make the fit-out process straightforward,"

Adrian Hindley, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Phoenix.

For more information on Minecorp's light vehicle safety products call 1300 922 881.

minecorp.com.au



WE ARE VEHICLE SAFETY

