

# Non Operational Pit Entry Procedure

Number	WCEF-PD-HSE-0020				
Reasons for Creating or Amending Document	Correction of Error or Omission; Full Review of Document				
Actual Change Details	Registered Manager to Senior Site Executive (Inline with new legislation). Wording around eliminating risk by re-considering work unless necessary and approved by SSE Wording added to be clear that this procedure is not for operational/active mines Minor formatting updates.				
Version	5.0.0	Published	28/11/2024	Review Date	28/11/2026

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# Non Operational Pit Entry Procedure

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to capture the hazards associated with, and provide guidance to, persons working in non-operational mining pits.

### 1.2 Scope

This procedure applies to all personnel required to enter pit workings at WesCEF Minerals Exploration sites, Western Australia. This procedure does not apply to active operational pits or mines.

## 2. Procedure

### 2.1.1 Equipment

Equipment required for entry to non-operational pits will depend on the work being undertaken. At a minimum, the following is needed;

- PPE
  - Gloves
  - Hard hat
  - Sunscreen
  - Glasses
  - Steel capped boots
  - High visibility, long sleeve clothing
- First Aid Kit and Snake Bite Kit
- Water
- Two-way radio
- Satellite Phone, InReach Device or similar

Other equipment which may be required includes;

- Notebook and Pen
- Scribe/Compass/Hand-lens
- Mark-up paint
- Sample Bags and hammer (if sampling is required)
- Camera to take photos.

### 2.2 Preparation

The Remote Work Procedure (WCEF-PD-HSE-0024) and Remote Work Management Plan (WCEF-HSE-0008) must be followed when completing any work away from the main office at WesCEF Exploration sites. This includes notifying other personnel of your planned work area and agreeing on check-in times and estimated return times.

Ensure a discussion is held with relevant supervisors and personnel prior to entering pits, detailing planned tasks and hazards. Work should not be undertaken in a non-operational pit unless necessary and any tasks deemed high risk will need to be accompanied with a JHA.

Permission must be given by the Exploration Manager or the Senior Site Executive of the site prior to entering any non-operational pit.

Consider relevant hazards prior to commencing work;

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1. Field conditions - This includes slip and trip hazards (historic drillholes and poor surface conditions underfoot are common in old pits), potential cuts, grazes and bites through interaction with flora and fauna.
2. Manual handling - hazards are mitigated by ensuring field work is carried out in a considered manner, safe and correct technique is used, and that correct PPE is worn if using a geological hammer. The work load should also be shared between field personnel. There are also specific risks associated with sampling high-walls in pits (section 5.7). If sampling of high walls is necessary then a Take 5 must be carried out and a spotter utilised.
3. Working in isolation - Pit entry should always occur in pairs and personnel should have access to a satellite phone, GPS, first aid kit and SPOT device.
4. Weather – different weather conditions introduce varying hazards into the environment. Ensure Take 5s consider weather conditions and appropriate measures are taken to mitigate these hazards.
  - a. Hot weather: If personnel are spending significant time within a pit then they should carry water with them and take regular breaks. On a hot day personnel may need to drink up to 2L/hr. Water should also be kept in the LV.
  - b. Lightning: No-one shall enter pits during lightning storms.
  - c. Rainfall: The probability of rock-fall events increase during and after rain. For this reason personnel should avoid entering pits during, and after, rainfall events
  - d. Fog: Fog is a hazard as it impairs inspection of the pit conditions prior to pit entry. If fog is thick enough to prevent an adequate risk assessment taking place then pit entry shall not occur. Moderate fog may also adversely affect the ability of a spotter to perform their role
  - e. “High Wall” specific hazards: Rockfalls are common occurrences in abandoned pits. If a rockfall (this includes small rock movements such as ‘dribbling’ and/or dust trickling) is witnessed while in a pit then evacuation should take place immediately as this may be an indicator for a larger slope failure. All personnel shall stay out of the exclusion zone (defined as being <10m from the high wall) unless the following conditions are met;
    - (i) A spotter must be utilised when working within the exclusion zone.
    - (ii) The person(s) working close to the highwall must stay aware of their surroundings, not solely rely on the spotter. Regularly check the conditions of the batters and make sure that there is a clear path for a quick retreat.
    - (iii) Personnel should not spend any more time than necessary working within 10m of the highwall.
    - (iv) The role of the Spotter is to observe the pit walls immediately above and in the general area of where the other person (field assistant, geologist or surveyor) is working so as to give early warning of any potential rock falls. The spotter must remain in a safe location and have a clear line of sight to observe the wall above the work area.
    - (v) A method of communication in case of emergency (e.g. rock fall event) shall be established prior to personnel working within the exclusion zone. Communication can be in the form of a mechanical device e.g. air horn or whistle, or verbal warning. On hearing this warning persons should move quickly and safely away from the highwall.

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- (vi) A spotter must keep an eye out for signs of instability. Signs of instability include; dust plumes, rilling, cracks, rock movement (rock falls), or rock noise.
- (vii) A spotter shall spot for a maximum of 25 minutes before taking a 5 minute break or swapping tasks.

## 2.3 Pit Entry

1. Drive to the required pit and park in a safe location
  - a. Unless deemed otherwise by a JHA, non-operational pits on WesCEF Minerals Exploration tenements are not to be accessed by LV. Even if an access ramp has not been bunded off LV's should never be driven into old pits.
  - b. On arrival at the pit of interest you should park the LV well back from the crest and pit entry on flat ground. If there is any slope the vehicle's wheels must be wheel chocked (in addition to in-gear with the handbrake on).
2. Complete a Take 5 prior to entering any non-operational pits. Observe the work area for;
  - a. Loose rocks or materials that could fall
  - b. Overhangs
  - c. Cracks or areas of 'fresh' rock face
  - d. Signs that rocks or materials have recently fallen, or are falling
  - e. Noises coming from the walls
  - f. Seepage from the rock face
  - g. Cracks or ruts within the pit floor caused by erosion or slips



**WARNING**

**Pit edges can become unstable and are difficult to assess when standing on top of them. For this reason no-one shall go within 2m of a pit-edge in a vehicle or on foot.**

3. Enter the pit on foot



**WARNING**

**Beware of hazards within the pit. The bottom of open pits often contain accumulated water, even if they appear dry, and should be avoided where possible.**

4. Complete required work
5. Leave the pit on foot the same way it was entered. Personnel are to tag off the location board and report to their supervisor once they arrive back at camp or office.

## 3. Definitions

Term	Definition
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EXCLUSION ZONE	An area where access is not permitted or restricted. Measured from the toe of high wall (10m).
FAILURE	Any gravity driven collapse of a rock mass. Surficial failure involves near surface rock mass, whereas deep-seated failure extends to a significant depth within the rock mass.
HAZARD	A source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.
HIGH WALL	A high wall is any wall of bench height where batter cutting (oxide) or scaling (bedrock) has been completed.
LIKELIHOOD	Used as a qualitative description of probability or frequency.
LV	Light Vehicle
RAVELING	The gradual failure of the rock mass by blocks of rock falling from the pit walls – usually under the action of gravity, blast vibration or deterioration of the rock mass strength.
RISK	Any event that could prevent an entity from achieving its objectives, or result in a potential impact. Risk is measured in terms of a combination of the consequence of a specific event and the likelihood of it occurring.  Risk = Consequence x Likelihood.
RISK ASSESSMENT	The overall process of risk and opportunity identification, analysis and evaluation.
ROCKFALL	Is loose material that either falls or rolls from faces. Rockfall can also be an indication of an onset of failure.
SLOPE	Any continuous face of rock within the overall open pit wall.
WET WEATHER CONDITIONS	Any rain fall.