

# WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 23 April 2021

This incident summary provides information on reportable incidents and safety advice for the NSW mining industry. To report an incident to the NSW Resources Regulator: phone 1300 814 609 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## At a glance

High level summary of emerging trends and our recommendations to operators.

TYPE	NUMBER
Reportable incident total	40
Summarised incident total	2

## Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	COMMENTS TO INDUSTRY
Dangerous incident IncNot0039697 Underground coal mine	While attempting to unblock a ballast borehole, a surface drill-rig operator and his offsider were hit on the legs with ballast that ejected from the borehole. The preliminary investigation suggests that the rig had drilled down through ballast in the hole and partly into the blockage. A build-up of air pressure caused the loose ballast to dislodge a protective collar, escape and hit the operators. No injuries were sustained.	Drill rig operators need to identify all potential hazards associated with all energy sources and implement appropriate controls. This is especially important when there is the potential for stored energy associated with blockages to be released without warning.



Dangerous incident  
IncNot0039716  
Metals exploration



Roads or other  
vehicle operating  
areas

The operator of a 20 tonne tracked support vehicle sustained lower back injuries when the vehicle lost power on an incline and rolled backwards before coming to rest on a creek bank. The preliminary investigation suggests that the braking system failed to stop the vehicle and there was no fail-safe braking system.

The cause of this incident is unknown at this stage. Further information may be published later. Mine operators are reminded that they must develop and adhere to strict inspection and maintenance standards and practices to ensure plant is fit-for-purpose. Vehicle operators must carry out pre-start inspections to ensure plant can be safely operated. Safety critical systems, such as braking, should be inspected, maintained and tested in accordance with the



manufacturer's recommendations.

## Other Resources Regulator publications

- Safety bulletin - SB21-02 - [Flyrock from blasting activities](#)
- Safety bulletin - SB21-03 - [Diesel shutdown systems](#)

## Other publications of interest

These incidents are included for your review. The NSW Resources Regulator does not endorse the findings or recommendations of these incidents. It is your legal duty to exercise due diligence to ensure the business complies with its work health and safety obligations.

PUBLICATION	ISSUE/TOPIC
	<b>International (other, non-fatal)</b>
<b>MinEx NZ</b>	<p><b>Snatch block failure during lift</b></p> <p>A contractor was using a winch truck and two snatch blocks to lift an 18 metre section of casing from a trench, when one of the components catastrophically failed, injuring the winch operator.</p> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p>
	<b>National (other, non-fatal)</b>
<p><b>Resources Safety and Health</b></p> <p><b>Queensland Coal Inspectorate</b></p>	<p><b>Hazards associated with some super large bore inflator adaptors – Safety alert #389</b></p> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p>

**Note:** While the majority of incidents are reported and recorded within a week of the event, some are notified outside this time period. The incidents in this report therefore have not necessarily occurred in a one-week period. All newly recorded incidents, whatever the incident date, are reviewed by the Chief Inspector and senior staff each week. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our annual performance measures reports.

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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<b>Mine safety reference</b>	ISR21-16
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<b>Approved by</b>	Deputy Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector
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