

WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 01 October 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	44
Summarised incident total	2

Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	COMMENTS TO INDUSTRY
Dangerous incident IncNot0040801 Underground coal mine		<p>Effective isolation and energy dissipation practices are critical risk controls when working with high pressure fluid systems. Mine risk assessment on hydraulic systems must identify and provide effective controls for areas where trapped fluid poses a hazard. Refer to the following publications:</p> <p>SB13-01 Fluid injections result in surgery</p> <p>MDG41-Fluid-power-systems</p>

A worker was replacing a leg cylinder on a breaker line support. While positioning to install the top pin, the yield valve

sprayed oil onto the worker. The investigation identified that the powered lower circuit entrapped fluid. When the leg was raised, the pressure intensified and caused the yield valve to dissipate the pressure from the leg’s top stage. The worker was uninjured.

Dangerous incident
IncNot0040788
Underground
metals mine

A cable cassette was being changed out with an integrated tool carrier, when it dislodged. As it fell to the ground, it glanced the operator, who received some scratches to their hand and knee.



Workers need to identify safe standing zones and ensure they remain outside of the line of fire when replacing cassettes and attachments on mobile plant. When lifting loads, workers must:

- use the correct lifting equipment and machine for the task
- clean the work area of equipment not required for the task.

Other publications of interest

The 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

International (fatal)

MSHA

Mine fatality – On 15 September 2021, a 33-year-old contract welder was fatally injured when he crawled 40 feet into a 30-inch-diameter stainless-steel pipe. The victim was welding a joint from the outside of the pipe, and then entered the pipe to troubleshoot issues related to argon gas leakage. Co-workers found him unresponsive.

[Details](#)

MSHA

Roof and rib – Safety alert

From January 2017 to August 2021, the coal mining industry experienced 1,967 roof and rib incidents. Of these, there were nine fatal incidents and 570 lost time incidents; 83% of these incidents were the result of rocks falling between bolts and 13% were from rib rolls on continuous mining sections or onto longwall face conveyors.

[Details](#)

National (fatal)

**DMIRS
(WA)**

Fatality from fall from height

On 17 September 2021, a 52-year-old maintenance worker received fatal injuries after falling from a conveyor walkway to the ground below. An investigation is underway.

[Details](#)

**DMIRS
(WA)**

Fatality from ground collapse

On 30 September 2021, a 25-year-old drill and blast operator received fatal injuries when he was engulfed in a ground collapse while stemming a charged shot hole for blasting. The incident occurred in an open pit mine. An investigation is underway.

[Details](#)

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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Deputy Chief Inspector, Office of the Chief Inspector