

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 4 November 2022

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	27
Summarised incident total	2

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0043352 Construction materials Roads or other vehicle operating areas	Three teenagers were injured when an all-terrain vehicle rolled in a quarry. The quarry was on private land and there were numerous potential access points. Two of the teenagers were treated for minor injuries and a third suffered severe abdominal injuries after being pinned under the vehicle.	All mines and quarries must have adequate site security. Where gates are required, they must be used and secured to prevent unauthorised access. Additional information may be published as required. This incident is the subject of an ongoing investigation.



Weekly incident summary week ending 4 November 2022

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		
Serious Injury IncNot0043348 Underground metals mine	<p>A worker was taken to hospital after feeling unwell. The worker was assisting in a breakdown midway through a shift in an underground metalliferous mine. The area had a wet bulb temperature of 27 degrees and 31 degrees dry bulb. The worker began to feel nauseous and had a headache. When the symptoms became worse, the worker told an operator, who contacted a supervisor. The worker was taken to the surface, assessed and then taken to hospital. The worker was released later that day after receiving fluids.</p>	<p>Workers must manage their hydration and only attend work when fit to do so. Training must be provided to ensure workers are aware of the signs and symptoms of a heat-related illness and seek help if required.</p> <p>Supervisors must monitor workplaces for adequate ventilation and areas of high temperature.</p>

Note: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety alert and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

Visit our [website](#) to:

- find more safety alerts and bulletins
- use our searchable safety database

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 (other, non-fatal)	
Energy Safety Canada	<p>During drilling activities in a deep well, a significantly damaged I-beam below the drilling rig crown block was identified when a melted piece of metal fell to the rig floor. The drill line was spooled incorrectly and had cut almost completely through the I-beam, which was below the crown block and water table. This could have led to a serious incident.</p> <p>Details</p>
WorkSafe NZ	<p>On 8 July 2022 at 10.55pm, 2 tunnel workers observed smoke emerging out of a heavy-duty steel toolbox that was stored underground. A third worker radioed in for assistance in extinguishing the fire. A worker started to remove tools and other gear from the toolbox while the 2 other workers obtained a 9 kg dry powder extinguisher.</p>

Weekly incident summary week ending 4 November 2022

Publication	Issue/topic
	<p>The worker who was removing tools and gear from the toolbox observed sparks flying towards them. They stepped back and, after using the extinguisher, the fire was thought to have been put out. However, the tool sparked a fire for the second time. The workers closed the toolbox lid and a leading hand arrived at the scene with a second 9 kg dry powder extinguisher. Workers opened the lid using scaffold tubes and the fire was extinguished a second time. Workers started removing tools out of the toolbox and placed them on a nearby scaffold. Upon removing, workers found a 6V Hilti Lithium Battery 822 5.2 Li-Ion melted (connected) to a Hilti Sabre Saw SR6-A22</p> <p>Details</p>
	<p>National (other, non-fatal)</p>
<p>Resources Health & Safety Queensland</p>	<p>Mines in Queensland do not operate heavy machinery and vehicles outdoors while lightning is present. However, Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) is aware that some mines have recently introduced (or are proposing to introduce) amendments to their safety and health management systems to allow operations to continue during lightning. It is contended by these mine operators that the outer metal skin of the vehicle's cabin acts like a Faraday cage and protects the operator from potential electrocution. RSHQ engaged the University of Queensland to provide a report assessing the safety risks to operators of heavy machinery and emergency response teams working during lightning.</p> <p>Details</p>
<p>WA Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety</p>	<p>Incidents have recently occurred when plant has been used to lift, lower or suspend loads near workers. Incidents have resulted in serious injuries and fatalities. Contributory factors vary between incidents but include a lack of planning to develop a safe system of work that considers exclusion zones, designated lifting areas and control or elimination of simultaneous activities within the lifting area, failure of lifting equipment, lack of information and training and inadequate supervision.</p> <p>Details</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.

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2022. You may copy, distribute, display, download and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute Regional NSW as the owner. However, you must obtain permission if you wish to charge others for access to the publication (other than at cost); include the publication in advertising or a product for sale; modify the publication; or republish the publication on a website. You may freely link to the publication on a departmental website.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (November 2022) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including Regional NSW), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.

Document control	
CM9 reference	DOC22/315895
Mine safety reference	ISR22-44
Date published	11 November 2022
Authorised by	Deputy Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector