

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 25 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	53
Summarised incident total	7

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0043556 Open cut coal mine	A blast was fired near the boundary adjacent to another mine. After the blast, it became apparent that several workers were within the blast exclusion zone in the adjacent mine. The workers were 430 metres from the blast, no fly rock was observed.	Blast exclusion zones must be managed and confirmed clear before blasting operations. When the blasting exclusion zone extends beyond and overlaps the mine boundaries, additional controls and systems must be put in place to ensure these areas are cleared and no people are at risk.
Dangerous incident IncNot0043551 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas	While a boilermaker was repairing the bucket of a large excavator, a light vehicle slowly rolled from its parked location. The vehicle narrowly missed the boilermaker as it rolled. The vehicle was parked for some time before the incident occurred.	When setting up work areas, vehicle park-up areas should be located where vehicles can be parked fundamentally stable and clear of work areas. All workers should confirm their vehicles are parked fundamentally stable before leaving the vehicle. Vehicle operators should daily check the function and operation of braking systems.



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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0043547</p> <p>Underground coal mine</p> <p>Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p>A road-registered water cart moved to the edge of the road and hit a soft section, slowly rolling onto the side. The driver was not injured.</p> 	<p>When operating plant and equipment, workers must remain situationally aware of the environment in which they are operating.</p> <p>Mine operators should assess and demarcate any areas alongside roads and vehicle operating areas where conditions may pose hazards to vehicle operations such as soft edges.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0043532</p> <p>Construction materials</p>	<p>A worker was using a skid steer loader to unload bulk bags of hydrated lime. One of the bags had torn near the top of the bag. As it was unloaded, wind blew lime into the worker's face. After trying to flush their eyes with water, the worker was treated at hospital.</p>	<p>When implementing controls for worker exposure when handling lime, higher order controls must be considered first. Dust containment and enclosed machinery cabs fitted with filtration should be considered before administrative and personal protection equipment (PPE) controls are implemented.</p> <p>A safety data sheet should be the basis for determining PPE requirements.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0043531</p> <p>Underground coal mine</p> <p>Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>An underground coal mine was restoring power following a disturbance on the incoming supply. The supply was restored to an underground distribution board and all 4 outlets had been powered for several minutes.</p> <p>A hissing sound lasted for 5-10 seconds. An arc fault then occurred. The arc front propagated from the enclosure to the PLC cabinet and then external to the enclosure.</p> <p>The surface substation tripped.</p> <p>Four nearby workers suffered discomfort and ringing in the ears, several reporting a blocked ear sensation.</p>	<p>High voltage electrical plant has a high risk of causing fires and explosions and must be maintained fit-for-purpose throughout its life cycle.</p> <p>Mine operators should identify areas within high voltage enclosure that are susceptible to Quora and high voltage stress. Maintenance schedules and stress relief measures should be documented and implemented.</p> <p>Explosion vents on high voltage enclosures should be checked that they are suitably located and will direct any internal explosion away from workers and are appropriately sized to prevent deflation of the switch board in the event of an internal electrical explosion.</p>

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<p data-bbox="113 678 411 875"> Dangerous incident IncNot0043521 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas </p> 	<p data-bbox="411 678 1023 835"> An articulated truck was being used as part of rehabilitation works hauling topsoil. While unloading on a grade, the cab rolled and the tub stayed upright. The operator was uninjured but required assistance to exit the cab. </p> 	<p data-bbox="1023 678 1477 987"> Operating areas need to be assessed as suitable for the type of vehicle hauling the material. When dumping on grades or transitions between grades, the grade and machine capabilities must be compared to ensure that operations remain within the allowable operating parameters of the machine. </p>
<p data-bbox="113 1332 411 1529"> Dangerous incident IncNot0043508 Underground metalliferous mine Fire or explosion </p> 	<p data-bbox="411 1332 1023 1585"> A load haul dump (LHD) was tele-remote bogging. An operator entered the cab to resume manual operation. The operator noticed a burnt electrical smell but did not notice any damage. The LHD was taken to the workshop where further inspections identified damage. Video footage was reviewed, and the reflection of flames could be seen in the cab. </p>	<p data-bbox="1023 1332 1477 1529"> When plant and equipment is operated autonomously or via tele-remote, additional controls to manage the detection and activation of fire suppression systems are to be implemented. </p> <p data-bbox="1023 1541 1477 1697"> During the 2021/2022 financial year, only 13% of fires reported were extinguished by automatic deployment of the fire suppression system. </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.

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- 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 (fatal)
MSHA	On 1 October 2022, a miner died while using a crane to remove a haul truck engine. The auxiliary line broke, causing the hook and ball assembly to fall and strike the miner. Details
	National (other, non-fatal)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	As summer approaches, Queensland coal mines have already started to experience hot weather conditions. People with safety and health obligations must ensure that exposures to heat are being effectively managed to an acceptable level of risk at their mine sites. The mine's safety health management system (SHSMS) must incorporate processes to recognise and effectively manage heat exposure and to protect coal mine workers (CMW) from heat-related illness. 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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