

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 10 February 2023

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	41
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0044101 Construction materials Ground or strata failure 	A large excavator was loading a mobile crusher on the pit floor when an 2-3 tonne stone fell from the face and hit the counterweight of the excavator. The operator was not injured. 	Wall design (mine planning) must consider slip planes, hydrology and other environmental factors that may reduce high wall integrity. Blast designs must be reviewed and changed when the correct fragmentation is not being achieved. Dig faces must not be undercut when large material is present in the face. This practice exposes workers and equipment to unnecessary risk.

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0044100 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p>The operator of a haul truck was trying to park next to a parked haul truck. The operator misjudged and the rear left of the tray hit the front right tray of the truck.</p> 	<p>Equipment operators must check their surroundings before parking. Workers must ensure the correct separation distance between equipment is applied when parking and not rush to park up for breaks or shift end.</p> <p>Park-up areas should be designed and constructed to drive through to prevent reverse parking and have adequate lighting and demarcation.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0044093 Construction materials</p>	<p>A contract boilermaker felt a tingle while using a portable 240 volt welder. He was using the welder during muggy conditions and attributed the shock to sweat.</p> <p>He was taken to hospital for an ECG and cleared of injury.</p> 	<p>Appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times when welding. PPE must remain dry.</p> <p>Appropriate electrical protection must be in place on all portable electrical equipment.</p> <p>Portable equipment leads should be regularly tested and tagged. Any leads with visible damage should be repaired or discarded before use.</p> <p>For guidance refer to the NSW Resources Regulator Technical Reference Guide TRG – Hot work (cutting and welding) at mines and petroleum sites.</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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Visit our [website](#) to:

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

Other Resources Regulator news

Investigation Information Release IIR23-01

An inoperable and unoccupied dozer was being towed by a second dozer down a mine ramp to an input maintenance area, with an excavator being used as a brake stop, when a recovery sling failed and another disconnected. This resulted in the unoccupied dozer travelling uncontrolled down the ramp for 230 metres before coming to a stop on a windrow. No workers were injured.

Read the full report on our [website](#)

Quarterly mine safety report

The quarterly safety report for October to December 2022 has been released to better inform industry when reviewing safety management systems and undertaking risk assessments at their sites. The report details incidents and trends relating to hazard management, in addition to sector specific information. In the period October to December 2022, total incident notifications received by principal hazard were up (from 159 to 219). This figure also represents an increase from the quarterly average (169) recorded for the previous four quarters.

Read the full report on our [website](#)

New guide on licence testing requirements published

Polymeric processes, when undertaken in an underground coal mine, can pose significant risks to workers if they are undertaken without proper and due regard to the risks. As a consequence, legislation has been enacted to provide significant penalties to those who attempt to undertake these activities without a licence. It is noted that Section 154 of the Regulations provides that activities requiring a licence to be undertaken in an underground coal mine in NSW cannot be undertaken unless in accordance with the licence.

Read the full guide on our [website](#)

Information sheet published on suspending or cancelling practising certificates

The Regulator has published a document that provides information on the process for suspending or cancelling practising certificates, as prescribed in the NSW Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022.

Read the full information sheet on our [website](#)

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
	National (fatal)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	On 15 February 2023, a light vehicle and drill rig fell approximately 15 metres into a stope void in the underground workings of the Dugald River mine in North-West Queensland. The operator of the drill rig was rescued with minor injuries but on 16

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Publication	Issue/topic
	<p>February, when the light vehicle was recovered from the stope, it was confirmed that 2 workers were deceased in the vehicle.</p> <p>Details</p>
	<p>National (other, non-fatal)</p>
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	<p>Two recent incidents have resulted in coal mine workers being exposed to an unacceptable level of risk when bulldozers they have been operating on coal stockpiles have sunk into voids above feed valves.</p> <p>The first incident occurred at a surface coal mine on 27 January 2023. Coal taken through the feed valve to the load out bin created a rathole, because the void did not reach the stockpile surface. The coal that bridged above the void, due to the rathole, failed beneath the weight of the bulldozer. This resulted in the bulldozer inverting and becoming engulfed with coal, with the operator trapped in the cabin for approximately 10 hours. The second incident occurred at an underground mine on 30 January 2023. In this case the separation distance of the bulldozer from the caving profile visible above the feed valve was insufficient to prevent the entrapment occurring. These 2 events follow an early event in December 2022, which was communicated to industry through the publication of Safety Alert 420 Bulldozer drops into a void above a conveyor feed valve point.</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.

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