

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 21 April 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	50
Summarised incident total	4


Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0044531 Construction materials Roads or other vehicle operating areas	<p>A man was driving a light-rigid truck and parked in a car park in front of their private vehicle. The truck driver left the truck, which started to roll forward. The driver unsuccessfully tried to get back into the truck and as he tried to jump away, he slipped and the outside rear wheel ran over his ankle.</p> <p>The truck rolled forward hitting his own vehicle and stopped on a bund. He was cleared of any fractures and only suffered minor grazing.</p> 	<p><u><i>The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 Section 28</i></u> requires workers to take reasonable care of their own health and safety and not affect the health and safety of others at work.</p> <p>Workers must also comply with reasonable instructions and procedures of the workplace. Parking fundamentally stable before exiting a vehicle is a reasonable instruction or procedure.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		
<p data-bbox="113 663 371 864"> Dangerous incident IncNot0044513 Underground metal mine Fire or explosion </p> 	<p data-bbox="411 663 1018 954"> A loader was being refuelled at a surface fuel bay when a fire started. The worker immediately shut off the fuel. The automatic fire suppression system activated, and the worker used a hose to extinguish the fire. </p> <p data-bbox="411 831 1018 954"> Inspectors identified a 50 kg fire extinguisher trolley that was overdue for inspection and a fire hydrant in the fuel bay inaccessible due to poor housekeeping. </p> <p data-bbox="411 976 1018 1010"> The mine is investigating the cause of the fire. </p> 	<p data-bbox="1018 663 1481 954"> Mine operators should routinely audit fire-fighting equipment to ensure it is maintained in a fit-for-purpose state. This includes maintenance inspections being performed as scheduled and ensuring housekeeping around fire control devices will not hinder emergency responses. </p> <p data-bbox="1018 976 1481 1133"> Mine operators should also audit the fire-fighting capabilities around refuelling areas to ensure they are adequate to manage any fire events that may occur. </p>
<p data-bbox="113 1368 371 1592"> Dangerous incident IncNot0044502 Underground coal mine Ground or strata failure </p> 	<p data-bbox="411 1368 1018 1547"> A fall of rib occurred adjacent to a crusher. The fall was about 13 metres long, 2 metres high and a metre deep. The mine operator had recognised that changes were required to strata support requirements, but failed to upgrade the support in this area before the longwall retreated. </p> 	<p data-bbox="1018 1368 1481 1559"> When strata support designs change, mine operators should re-assess areas already supported to ensure the adequacy of existing strata support. </p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0044501 Underground metal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas	<p>A worker driving a haul truck had a micro-sleep. The truck went through a bund, crossed an intersection and then through another bund. The truck narrowly missed driving off the headwall of a culvert. There were no other vehicles in the intersection.</p> <p>The operator was not injured. The worker continued driving and later reported the incident.</p> 	<p>Mine operators should conduct a review of haul road windrows design to confirm the size of the windrow is appropriate for the size of the vehicles operating on that road.</p> <p>Mine operators should also confirm that contractors have a fatigue management plan, and that fatigue is included in the health control plan.</p> <p>Refer to our website on the health control plan (here) and the Fatigue Management Guide</p>



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	<p>Since 2018, there have been 7 fatalities involving miners operating personnel carriers. These accidents could have been prevented if mine operators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) had adequate procedures in place to ensure safe travel of personnel carriers 2) maintained braking systems, and 3) trained miners on the safe operation of personnel carriers. <p>Details</p>
	International (other, non-fatal)
NZ MinEx	<p>A contractor was operating an articulated dump truck on a quarry haul road. As he was coming around a bend in the road the rear tyre sunk into unstable ground and the tray of the truck tipped onto its side. There was minor damage to the ADT and no-one was injured. ADT rollovers are far too common in mines and quarries, with speed, overloading, and inadequate training being common contributing factors.</p> <p>Details</p>
NZ MinEx	<p>NZ - Safety alert on following procedures</p> <p>Recent data shows a continual increase in the number of incidents resulting from the failure of workers to follow procedures. These incidents typically result from organisations' failure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involve workers in development of procedures

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Publication	Issue/topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide adequate training• ensure procedures reflect how the job is done• keep procedures up-to-date• provide adequate supervision• address production pressures• manage fatigue and other human factors <p>Details</p>
	National (other, non-fatal)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	Understanding the incidence and types of occupational health harms across the resources industry is important for monitoring the effectiveness of exposure controls to manage risks. This second biannual report includes further consideration of work histories and additional case studies of mine dust lung disease. It also includes information about reports to RSHQ of workplace sexual harassment (including sexual assault) in the Queensland resources industry. 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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