

REPORTABLE INCIDENTS | WHS MINES LEGISLATION

Weekly incident summary

Published 23 March 2016

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 and summarised in this report. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our [Annual Performance Measures Reports](#).

Reportable incidents total

Level 1 incidents	Level 2 incidents	Level 3 incidents
56	9	0

Note: Incidents are categorised as Level 1, 2 or 3 according to the seriousness of the incident, with 3 being the most serious.

Injuries	Fatalities
16	0

Reportable incidents overview

Note: While all incidents are investigated, generally only level 2 and 3 incidents are summarised below.

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	Gas 317659170001	General body methane (CH4) concentrations in the main headings exceeded 2.0% for an extended period of time after an unplanned closure of a man door.	Mine operators should consider reviewing adequacy of all ventilation control devices (VCDs) with a particular focus on components and/or methods of installation that are fit for purpose.
2	Gas 317659166001	General body methane (CH4) concentrations in the longwall tailgate exceeded 2.0% for an extended period of time during preparation for final sealing of the roadway when ventilation was restricted to the area.	Mine operators to ensure ventilation modelling is completed and communicated prior to major ventilation changes including sealing all or parts of the mine. Furthermore, proposed ventilation changes should be reviewed and authorised before being implemented.
2	Gas 317659164001	General body methane (CH4) concentrations in main headings exceeded 2.0% for an extended period of time during a main ventilation failure caused by a 66kV incoming supply trip.	Mine operators must ensure emergency management plans include withdrawal procedures and that workers are familiar with those procedures. The failure of incoming power supply is not an uncommon occurrence. Mine operators should consider the use of auxiliary power supplies to support the mines ventilation infrastructure.

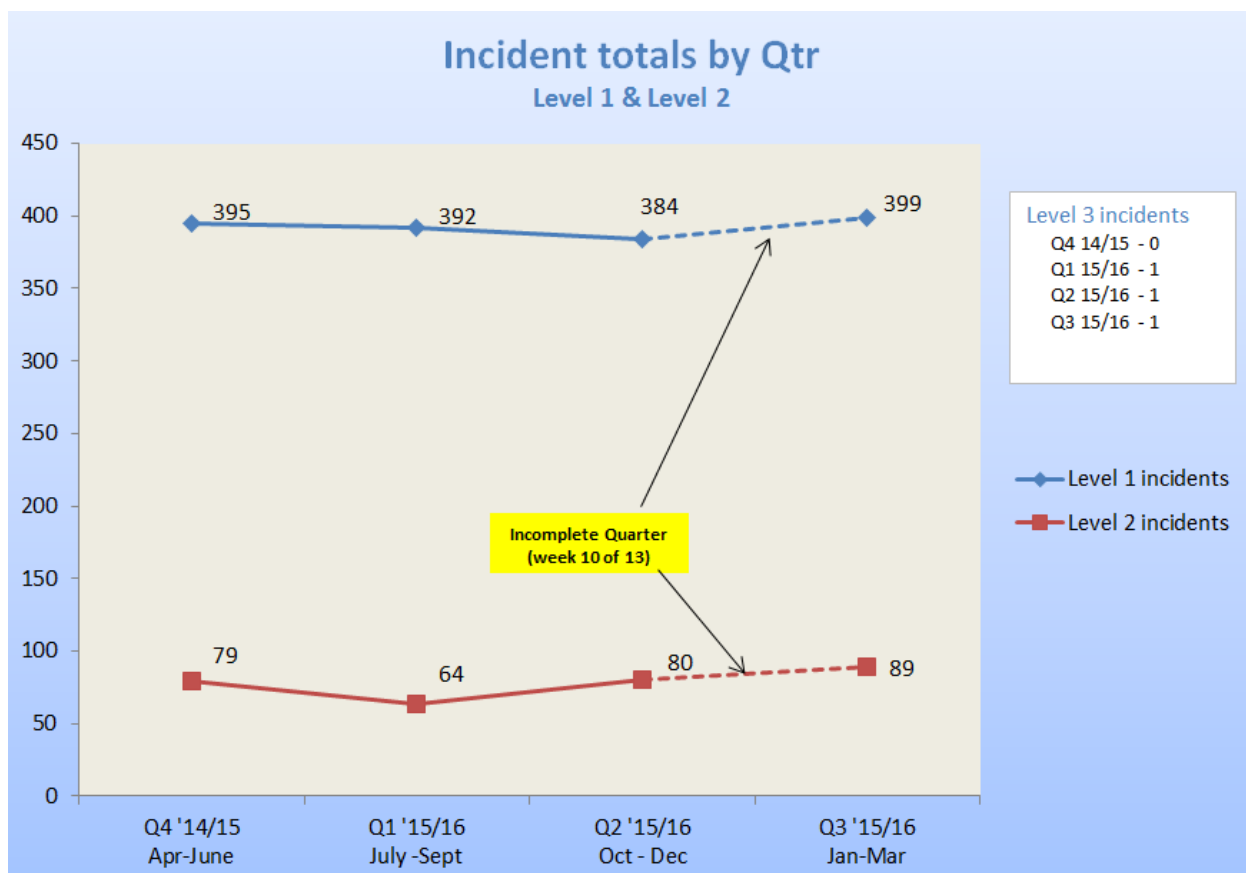
Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	Complaint other 317659067001	Complaint received via telephone in relation to work health and safety issues at a mine site. The complaint was responded to by the department.	Mine operators are reminded of their obligation to identify risks to health and safety and implement control measures in the event of unauthorised people gaining access to the site.
2	Work Environment 317659555001	Wash pad attendant lost balance while ascending dozer.	Fit-for-purpose equipment such as a work platform or scaffolding should be provided to allow safe access to plant or equipment while carrying out maintenance or cleaning activities. All sites should review procedures in light of this incident.
2	Work Environment complaint 317659595001	A former mine employee has made a complaint in relation to an incident that was not reported to the regulator and resulted in injury.	The complaint is being investigated by Mine Safety.
2	Work Environment complaint 317659519001	Complaint and request for information sought by mine employee in reference to Prohibition Notice served on a mine operator-	Mine operators are reminded that the legislation requires them to post all notices issued by an inspector on a notice board that is easily accessed by all workers and contractors.
2	Work Environment 317659438001	While in the process of turning off a sump mucker, the operator rested his left hand on the control box and suffered a suspected electrical shock. This plant had NER centre tapped 110 volt controls with no protection tripping device on remote operators in very wet conditions.	Legacy plant needs to be reviewed to latest standards and legislation.
2	Work Environment complaint 317659444001	A complaint received from a worker at a mine in relation to various safety matters including pit access, road conditions, working in confined spaces, fatigue management and hazardous substances and compliance with relevant legislation.	An investigation was undertaken. Some concerns were substantiated and actions taken as a result. The person raising the concerns has been advised of the outcome and any actions taken. Mine operators are reminded of the duty to consult workers when identifying hazards and assessing risks to health and safety arising from the work. Consultation requires that workers be given a reasonable opportunity to express their views and to raise work health or safety issues.
2	Mech Equipment 317659513001	An excavator was cleaning out a drain when the ground it was on gave way causing excavator to slip to a 45 degree angle. The excavator was standing 3 m off the drain. It was expected that the	The changing conditions should have triggered a review of the methodology for cleaning the drain.

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		excavator would be cleaning 1 m to solid ground however it was over 3 m.	
2	Electrical Energy 317659523001	A mobile maintenance fitter suffered an electric shock while using a caddy arc welder. The welding hand piece was damaged, he was wearing damp clothing and kneeling on the wet metal of the bucket.	<p>Mines should ensure that all welding equipment is inspected prior to use and is maintained correctly.</p> <p>Damp clothes or gloves increase both the likelihood and severity of electric shock when welding. Clothing, including welding gloves should be in good condition and dry.</p> <p>Insulating mats should be used where contact with the work piece cannot be avoided.</p> <p>Fatalities have occurred under these conditions</p> <p>Refer to Safe Work Australia <i>Welding Processes' Code of Practice for guidance in work practices</i> and to AS 1674.2 for guidance in selection and maintenance of welding machines.</p>
2	Mechanical Equip 317659525001	An 'on highway' type water cart travelling fully loaded down a decline into an underground mine experienced partial failure of the braking system. The operator applied the 'Jacobs' engine brake and the service brakes. However, the braking systems were not adjusted correctly and were unable to stop the truck. The truck was turned onto a level drive and was then stopped with the service brakes.	<p>If 'on highway' types of truck are to be used in a mine they should be first subject to a comprehensive fit-for-purpose risk assessment and modifications made that meet the required duty in the mine environment.</p> <p>Pre-operational, periodic and pre-start inspections should be completed by competent persons to ensure that mobile equipment is fit for purpose and all safety critical systems are fully functional.</p> <p>Pre start checks should include in-service performance brake tests.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to using brake testing ramps beforeo entering a mine ramp or decline system.</p>
1	Mech Equip 317659537001	While dumping on a stockpile at night, one rear wheel mounted previously dumped material causing the tub on the six-wheel articulated truck to roll on its side. The cab remained upright.	<p>Mines should ensure that the work area where articulated dump trucks are used at night are well illuminated and the risk of overturning the tub is minimised through elimination of uneven roads and uneven dumping areas.</p> <p>Tipping points should be planned and clearly designated and/or controlled through close supervision.</p>
2	Work Environment complaint 317659591001	A third-party complaint was received in relation to a number of matters at a mine site including safety standards, management of dust and airborne contaminants and provision of PPE	An investigation was undertaken and many of the issues identified in the complaint verified. A WHS improvement notice was issued to the mine operator (in relation to more than one mine) and a meeting was held with company management to communicate the regulators

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concerns.

Mine operators are reminded of their duty in relation to managing risks from airborne contaminants – to ensuring exposure standards for substances and mixtures not exceeded and to monitor airborne contaminant levels by air monitoring.



Recent incident publications

Type	Identifier	Title	Date published
Incident Information Release	IIR16-01	Severe head laceration from damaged roof support strap	23 March 2016

You can find all our incident related publications (i.e. safety alerts, safety bulletins, incident information releases, weekly incident summaries and investigation reports) on our [website](#).

Further information

Should you wish to seek further information, please contact one of our offices:

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