

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 8 March 2024

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	49
Summarised incident total	4

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0046464 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion 	Underground workers had to retreat to refuge chambers following a fire on a compressor. An emergency response team was sent to one person who was in a refuge chamber close to the fire location. Nobody was injured. 	Maintenance systems must be comprehensive and should consider all reasonably, foreseeable risks of fire or explosion. Plant and equipment must be maintained in accordance with Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 clause 213 Maintenance and inspection of plant. Non-destructive testing (NDT) inspections should be scheduled at pre-determined intervals to minimise the risk of equipment failure.

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Serious injury IncNot0046472 Construction materials</p>	<p>A worker fell about 2.4 metres and suffered 2 breaks and 3 fractures to his lower back. He was helping a contract welder with maintenance on a side conveyor on a tracked mobile screen when he fell backwards, striking the machine tracks before hitting the ground.</p> 	<p>Mine operators are reminded that they have specific obligations under the WHS Regulations to manage the risk of a fall by a person. This includes having suitably rated attachment points for lanyards.</p> <p>Work positioning systems require a high level of competency on the part of the user and supervisor to ensure safe use. Users should undertake competency-based training on work positioning systems. This training should include the selection of the correct harness and lanyard type. For more information about working at heights please refer to the SafeWork Code of practice: Managing the risk of falls at workplaces.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0046493 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p>Two loaded trucks collided while driving up a ramp. The truck in front stopped and the truck behind ran into the back of it. The tray of the front truck went over the cab of the rear truck as per design and there were no injuries.</p> 	<p>Drivers should remain focused on the task at hand and not be distracted while driving. Drivers should find a safe place to stop and address any issues, rather than continuing to drive.</p> <p>Schedule 2 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014 includes the requirement that a health control plan must address control measures for minimising the risk that a worker will be impaired by fatigue.</p> <p>Mine operators should include worker fatigue monitoring and response technology as a part of their fatigue risk analysis.</p>
<p>Serious injury IncNot0046495 Underground coal Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p>	<p>The operator of a load haul dump (LHD) sustained a fractured nose and required numerous sutures when hit by a 15 cm pipe. The operator was picking up exchange rollers from a cut-through when he reversed over the buried pipe, which travelled slowly up the wheel arch and into the cabin, hitting the operator.</p>	<p>Situational awareness is a key control when operating mobile equipment. Workers should be trained in the importance of this control and include it in their pre-task risk assessment.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		

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 (other, non-fatal)
Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	<p>WorkSafe is aware of recent incidents in which hydraulic fluid contamination has resulted in the uncontrolled movement of the basket on elevating work platforms (EWPs). This includes the loss of performance related to platform level and jib function. Hydraulic fluid contamination can occur from the use of incorrect oil, dirt entering the hydraulic system or metallic fragments in the hydraulic system due to wear or damage. The maintenance environment, especially when servicing in the field, can cause an increased risk of contamination when the hydraulic system is open. Correct storage of hydraulic components is important to minimise the risk of contamination.</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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