

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 3 March 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	59
Summarised incident total	5





Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0044225 Underground metal mine Fire or explosion 	<p>A fire started in a shed at a batch plant at an underground metalliferous mine. The mine evacuated all personnel on the surface, as there was the potential for the smoke to enter the decline. Those workers underground went to refuge chambers. Emergency services were called, and the fire was extinguished. Chemicals that were stored in the area contributed to the fuel load of the fire.</p> 	<p>Mine withdrawal plans and trigger action response plans (TARPS) must be in place and tested regularly.</p> <p>Hazardous chemicals need to be appropriately stored, banded, labelled and signposted. Housekeeping standards around chemical storage areas must be maintained and inspected.</p> <p>Firefighting systems need to be inspected regularly and maintained.</p>



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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		
<p data-bbox="124 678 373 712">Dangerous incident</p> <p data-bbox="124 723 320 757">IncNot0044173</p> <p data-bbox="124 768 373 835">Underground metal mine</p>	<p data-bbox="448 678 1042 835">A fourth year mechanical apprentice was removing hoses on the retrieval circuit of a load haul dump (LHD). While undoing a hose, high pressure hydraulic oil sprayed the apprentice's left arm. The apprentice was cleared of injury.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1082 678 1469 835">Workers must ensure hydraulic systems are isolated and stored pressure is released before working on hydraulic systems.</p> <p data-bbox="1082 857 1401 958">Apprentices must be supervised and trained in workplace tasks.</p>
<p data-bbox="124 1646 373 1680">Dangerous incident</p> <p data-bbox="124 1691 320 1724">IncNot0044171</p> <p data-bbox="124 1736 373 1803">Underground metal mine</p> <p data-bbox="124 1814 411 1881">Inundation or inrush of any substance</p>	<p data-bbox="448 1646 1054 1769">While loading from a draw point, an uncontrolled flow of material came from the draw point. The flow started slowly and flowed back into the drive.</p>	<p data-bbox="1082 1646 1453 1848">Mine operators must assess the risk of inrush and inundation. When the risk exists, a principal hazard management plan must be in place.</p> <p data-bbox="1082 1859 1453 1960">Refer to the code of practice Inundation and inrush hazard management</p>

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<p data-bbox="124 1032 373 1205"> Dangerous incident IncNot0044167 Open cut coal mine Ground or strata failure </p> 	<p data-bbox="448 1032 1027 1126"> A significant failure of ground occurred at an end wall. No workers were in the vicinity at the time of the failure. </p> 	<p data-bbox="1082 1032 1414 1294"> Mine designs should be guided by a robust geotechnical assessment, conducted by a qualified person. Geotechnical assessments and reviews should be conducted at appropriate intervals. </p> <p data-bbox="1082 1312 1465 1473"> Where geotechnical hazards are known to exist, monitoring systems should be installed and monitored, with an early warning capability. </p> <p data-bbox="1082 1491 1437 1653"> Clear withdrawal conditions (such as a TARP) should be part of any ground or strata failure principal hazard management plan. </p>
<p data-bbox="124 1688 405 1921"> Dangerous incident IncNot0044166 Underground metal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas </p>	<p data-bbox="448 1688 1038 1816"> A light vehicle was driving down a decline when the vehicle made contact with the wall. Preliminary information suggests an issue with the brakes. No workers suffered any injuries. </p>	<p data-bbox="1082 1688 1449 1883"> Vehicles need to be fit-for-purpose with regular maintenance and inspection systems in place. This must include critical systems such as steering and brakes. </p> <p data-bbox="1082 1901 1458 2029"> Operational testing of service and park brakes should be included in pre-use inspections. </p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		

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.

Visit our [website](#) to:

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

Other Resources Regulator publications

Safety Alert SA23-01 Unintended movement of haul truck

An operator of an MT4400 haul truck left the cabin and descended the main stairs to isolate the truck in response to alarms, and walked in front of the truck to the main isolator on the off driver's side front bumper. The truck was not parked on level ground and started to roll forward when the battery isolator was turned off. The operator ran back in front of the rolling truck and up the main stairs to the cabin to apply the service (foot) brake. The incident occurred on 19 February 2023.

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

Changes to certificate of competence exam calendar 2023

The calendar has been changed for exams in 2023 on our [website](#) including:

- undermanager written exams will be held over 2 days (29 & 30 March) and the oral exams are now the 5 & 6 June
- OCE and mining engineering manager coal mines briefing session 14 March
- underground mine supervisor briefing session 20 March (note applications close 12 April)
- quarry manager briefing session 19 June
- mechanical engineering briefing session 20 June

All applications are to be submitted via the Resources Regulator [portal](#) by first obtaining a login, which requires identity documents to be submitted.

Individuals interested in applying are recommended to attend the free face to face only briefing session for each function conducted by each examination panel to inform you of what the process requires and what is expected to be assessed as competent. Please register to attend in person by this link:

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<https://cocbriefingsesstickets.eventbrite.com.au>

Note: the session will not be recorded and a copy of the presentation will only be provided to those who attend in person.

Please contact the mining competence team for further information mca@regional.nsw.gov.au or 1300 814 609 (options 2 & 3).

Further audits of WHS practising certificate holders for maintenance of competence

The Resources Regulator is contracting external organisations to conduct a further 100 audits by 30 June 2023 of practising certificate holders for their condition to comply with the gazetted maintenance of competence requirements.

Up to 10% of practising certificate holders for each statutory function with certificates expiring in the 2023-2024 financial year will be audited randomly.

For more details refer to our [Fact sheet: Auditing of WHS practising certificate holders](#) on our maintenance of competence webpage.

For specific enquiries, you can email mca@regional.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 814 609 (options 2 and 3).

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)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	<p>The Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate (PGI) has conducted Noise Health Risk Assessments (HRAs) across several operating plants to establish a baseline for hazardous noise. Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is caused by exposure to loud noises over a period depending on the loudness, pitch, and length of time. NIHL is painless, progressive, permanent, and preventable.</p> <p>Details</p>
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	<p>A mobile processing unit fitted with a dual fuel fill system was fitted with a faulty fuel cap. The fuel cap was missing the rubber seal, which created a potential fire hazard.</p> <p>An oversight has failed to identify the fuel cap for the gravity feed refuelling system was missing a rubber seal. The seal is critical to maintaining fuel tank pressurisation during the fast fuel process.</p> <p>Key issues: When the rubber seal is missing from the gravity feed fuel cap, increased pressure from the fast fuel process may cause fuel to spill from the gravity feed fuel cap. A previous incident resulted in a spill of diesel fuel from a defective gravity feed fuel cap onto hot engine parts, causing a fire and full loss of the charge up vehicle.</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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