

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 28 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	34
Summarised incident total	4

Summarised incidents


Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Fatal incident IncNot0044580 Opal mine	<p>A mineral claim holder had spent the day mining for opal. Friends of the claim holder raised the alarm when they had not heard from the claim holder at the end of the day.</p> <p>The claim holder was found deceased in their opal claim.</p>	<p>An investigation has commenced. Further information will be published later.</p>
Dangerous incident IncNot0044569 Open cut coal mine Ground or strata	<p>The driver of a haul truck was reversing up to dump a load and has driven through the dump's windrow.</p> <p>The worker safely exited the truck, and the truck was secured.</p>	<p>Workers should always approach bunds with their truck square to the bund.</p> <p>Workers must not use bunds to stop the truck when reversing to dump.</p>



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<p data-bbox="113 680 373 757">Dangerous incident IncNot0044568</p> <p data-bbox="113 775 373 808">Open cut coal mine</p> <p data-bbox="113 822 373 855">Fire or explosion</p> 	 <p data-bbox="395 680 1011 808">A haul truck was being operated on a ramp when the engine failed. The operator observed smoke and flames coming from the engine bay and immediately stopped the truck.</p> <p data-bbox="395 822 1011 913">The operator could not manually activate the fire suppression system as the operator couldn't remove the retaining pin.</p> <p data-bbox="395 931 1011 1059">The operator exited the truck. The fire suppression system then automatically activated. Water carts and the ERT attended the incident and extinguished the fire.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1011 680 1479 875">Mines should include in their maintenance inspections of fire systems where clips and ties are installed (to prevent accidentally deploying the system) that they can be easily removed.</p> <p data-bbox="1011 893 1479 1021">Workers must be trained to activate the fire suppression system including the removal of any ties or clips.</p> <p data-bbox="1011 1039 1479 1167">Refer to Safety Alert SA22-06 Operator unable to activate fire suppression system during emergency</p>
<p data-bbox="113 1606 373 1682">Dangerous incident IncNot0044551</p> <p data-bbox="113 1700 373 1760">Underground coal mine</p> <p data-bbox="113 1778 373 1812">Fire or explosion</p> 	<p data-bbox="395 1606 1011 1823">Workers on a continuous miner were installing roof bolts. There was a small roof cavity across the face area. When a red-hot blocked drill steel was withdrawn from the hole, methane ignited and a flame spread across the face area to the opposite rib above the heads of the workers on the continuous miner.</p> <p data-bbox="395 1841 1011 2004">An inspector attended the mine and identified good ventilation, Venturi pumps in place and monitoring devices present. However, the bolt was being installed in a cavity about 0.4 metres deep.</p>	<p data-bbox="1011 1606 1479 1823">Ensure that gas measurements are conducted in roof cavities to ensure there is no accumulation of methane gas. Ensure the gas monitor/detector has time to accurately detect the gas in the cavity.</p> <p data-bbox="1011 1841 1479 1991">Workers must remain aware that in boggy strata, manual feed may be more appropriate to prevent drill steel blockages.</p>

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	<p>The investigation identified that the drill steel was broken, which caused the drill tip to heat when using the auto feed function on the drill rig.</p> 	<p>Mines should review their frictional ignition plans to include a similar scenario.</p>

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