

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 18 Aug 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	44
Summarised incident total	4

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0045258 Open cut coal Roads or other vehicle operating areas	<p>A haul truck leaving a switchback corner lost control when Pos 3 and 4 tyres lost traction on the recently watered road. The truck crossed the centreline of the haul road, contacting and coming to rest on the windrow.</p> <p>The haul truck operator was a trainee under the supervision of an appointed trainer.</p> 	<p>Workers must operate vehicles at a speed that is appropriate to the prevailing conditions.</p> <p>Engineering controls that minimise the risk of loss of control should be considered, including the use of speed-limiting devices, speed monitoring and alarms.</p> <p>This incident highlights the importance of having appropriately designed and maintained windrows, bunds and edge protection.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045232 Open cut coal Ground or strata failure</p>	<p>Following approximately 10 mm of rain, a rock roughly the size of a football rolled off a 25 m highwall and hit the right-hand side window of a dozer.</p> <p>This caused the window to shatter and be pushed in onto the operator who received a small cut to his finger.</p> 	<p>Mine operators should ensure their high wall TARPs include controls in relation to unchained walls, wet weather and the combination of the two factors.</p> <p>Mine operators should review systems for recording and communicating to operators which walls are yet to be chained.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045239 Underground coal Leave blank</p>	<p>A continuous miner was cutting a plunge when the operator noticed smoke coming from the area around the cable handler. The machine was flitted back when they heard a pop and saw a flash.</p> <p>Upon inspection, an electrical arc had occurred leaving visible evidence of arcing. The electrical protection did not operate.</p>	<p>Electrical protection systems must be maintained to ensure they operate correctly when a fault occurs. Protection settings need to be aligned with the site protection study.</p> <p>Good maintenance practices must be in place to ensure that cables are used and maintained as per site cable standards.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045242 Open cut coal Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p>	<p>A dump truck normally used for hauling coal or reject was tasked with hauling overburden. The truck was fitted with a tail gate.</p> <p>After raising the tray to unload, the operator drove the truck forward at slow speed to allow material to clear the tray. The truck reared onto its back wheels and remained suspended.</p> 	<p>Mine operators should conduct a change management process for the operation of trucks fitted with tailgates when they are used to haul material other than the material the truck and dump body were designed for.</p>

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Other Resources Regulator news

Have your say – Discussion paper - vehicle interaction controls in NSW mines

Reminder for stakeholders to have their say and provide valuable feedback on the Vehicle Interaction Control Discussion Paper. This feedback will help the Resources Regulator address adverse vehicle interactions in the NSW mining industry.

Consultation is open until 5pm, Friday 8 September 2023.

You can read the paper here: [Vehicle interaction controls in underground mines](#).

To provide your feedback visit resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/public-consultation.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact meg.media@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Other publications of interest

These 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>Resources Safety and Health Queensland is cracking down on Queensland coal mines that are failing to protect workers from dozer rollover incidents. The industry's independent safety regulator will be targeting mines and suspending operations when the risk is not at an acceptable level, after noticing an increase in bulldozer rollovers, including two in the past week. There have been 19 dozer rollover incidents from January 2022 to August 2023.</p> <p>Incident 1: On 7 August 2023 a Coal Mine Worker (CMW) in Blackwater was required to push high waste material down using a CAT D11T Dozer to allow for the safe excavation of material using a large hydraulic excavator. Prior to executing the task, the work area inspections had not identified the hazards present which included an over-steepened excavated face on the high wall, the substandard berms in place, and the steps required to safely complete the task.</p> <p>Incident 2: On 8 August 2023, a CMW in Isaac Plains was in the process of marking out the dig limits for an excavator double benching in the area with a CAT D10T dozer. The coal mine worker identified the area had no edge protection berms in place and did not manage the risk associated with this hazard. While reversing towards the edge, without the edge protection berm, the dozer has breached the open edge and rolled approximately 110 degrees to the bottom of the slope.</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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