

# Weekly incident summary

## Week ending 22 September 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	62
Summarised incident total	4

### Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0045430 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas 	The body of an articulated water cart truck overturned while negotiating a corner after it was filled up. 	The stability of articulated vehicles is a known risk that needs to be managed at mine sites.  When developing control measures to deal with the risks associated with articulated trucks, plant characteristics, including stopping distances, manoeuvrability and operating speeds of both the loaded and unloaded vehicle and the mine’s road design must be considered.  Movement of fluid in tanks mounted on mobile plant can significantly influence the centre of gravity and overall stability of the vehicle. Consideration should be given to tank shape, baffling and compartmentalisation to control fluid surge.  Operators of articulated trucks need to remain situationally aware and drive to the conditions.

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045436 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p>While a light vehicle (LV) was waiting for a dozer to reverse back and park up, a loaded haul truck came around the bend towards the LV and had to take evasive action to avoid a collision.</p> <p>The haul truck stopped approximately 10 m from the LV.</p> 	<p>When stopping light vehicles, workers must not place themselves at risk of interactions with heavy vehicles.</p> <p>Mine operators should continually monitor whether improvements in truck operators' visibility can be achieved by managing the height of windrows at intersections and entrances to ramps and dump sites.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the location and proximity of designated parking bays in relation to crest, intersection and dump face.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045441 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>While operating a water cart underground in a metalliferous mine, the operator noticed smoke and flames from the engine bay. The operator exited the cabin and extinguished the fire with a hand-held extinguisher. The fire reignited and the operator and others continued to fight the fire. Emergency protocols were initiated and workers went to refuge chambers.</p> 	<p>The failure of oil and fuel lines near exhausts and turbochargers are well-known causes of fire. Fuel sources and ignition points should be separated or have other controls in place to prevent fires.</p> <p>AS5062:2022 Fire prevention and protection for mobile and transportable equipment was published in November 2022, mine operators should review this update to the Standard.</p>

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### Incident type

Dangerous incident  
IncNot0045465  
Coal processing  
plant

A worker investigating an electrical fault on a fridge in a crib room contacted a damaged cable and suffered an electric shock.

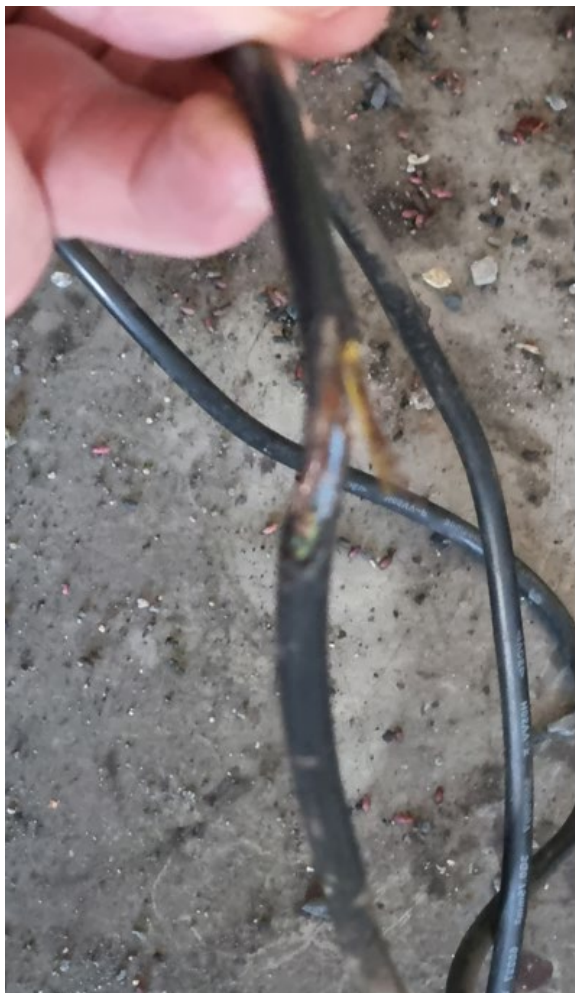
The residual current device (RCD) to the fridge circuit did not trip in the incident but was reportedly tested and worked effectively.

The worker was cleared of any injuries.

Mine operators must ensure that fit-for-purpose electrical installations are maintained in a state without risk to workers.

Refer to Safety Bulletin

[SB20-03 Electric shocks in the mining 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
	<b>National (other, non-fatal)</b>
<b>SafeWork Australia</b>	As the temperature continues to rise, SafeWork NSW is reminding all businesses of the responsibilities they have to keep their employees and customers safe from the dangers presented by extreme weather this summer. With the tragic bushfires of 2019-2020 still fresh in the minds of all, the NSW Government is rolling out a new easy-to-use online, interactive SeasonalSAFE planning tool. The SeasonalSAFE Plan helps businesses prepare and manage the risks summer weather can pose to their

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Publication	Issue/topic
	<p>workers and patrons. During the four-and-a-half months of continuous bushfires in 2019-2020, authorities indicated there were more deaths resulting from smoke than bushfires.</p> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p>
<b>Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety</b>	<p>An incident in which a tanker trailer exploded in the eastern Goldfields in October 2022 was largely preventable, a new report released has shown. The blast occurred on the Great Central Road, about 440 kilometres north east of Kalgoorlie after a tyre on the double road train caught fire and caused the tanker shell to melt. Ammonium nitrate emulsion (ANE) spilled from the tanker and detonated 2 hours after prolonged heating by the fire. The incident investigation by the WorkSafe Group of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) found incidents of this type were rare, and that improvements were required to better prevent and respond to tyre fires on vehicles transporting ANE and similar products.</p> <p>While the driver was unable to extinguish the blaze using the 3 onboard fire extinguishers, he managed to disconnect the rear tanker and drive the rest of the road train to a safe distance. The ensuing blast left a one-metre deep crater in the road and threw thousands of pieces of shrapnel across the surrounding area. A 100 kg piece of steel shrapnel was thrown around 413 metres from the blast site, while a 31 kg piece of the trailer's turntable was found 672 metres away.</p> <p>The likely cause of the tyre fire was a loss of pressure in an air supply line that caused the trailer's brake system to overheat and set grease alight on the brake drum.</p> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p> <p><a href="#">YouTube link</a></p>
<b>Resources Safety &amp; Health Queensland</b>	<p>The mines inspectorate has been made aware of allegedly counterfeit, potentially dangerous, heavy-duty bearings and components that may be installed in equipment and plant at a Queensland mine. An organisation contracted to install bearings and components at a mine contacted a reputable bearing manufacturer. The supplied bearings were inspected by the bearing manufacturer's expert, who determined that the products were counterfeit, i.e., not produced by the company, and illegally marked by the company's trademark. Installation of counterfeit components or components with unknown technical design and manufacturing specifications could pose a risk to plant and mine worker safety should they fail prematurely or catastrophically.</p> <p><a href="#">Details</a></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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