

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 5 January 2024 (16 December 2023 – 5 January 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	95
Summarised incident total	3



Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0046027 Underground metals mine	<p>A worker suffered an electric shock while installing a new skirting system to a conveyor using an electric rotor broach to drill holes.</p> <p>A gland on the portable drill was pulled out and allowed ingress of moisture to internal electrical components.</p>	<p>Mine operators should seek every opportunity to apply the hierarchy of controls when managing electrical equipment in harsh environments.</p> <p>Using extra low voltage electrical equipment and field devices considerably reduces the risks associated with electric shock.</p> <p>Where this control cannot be applied, the maintenance of the ingress protection (IP) rating for the electrical equipment should be paramount.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		
<p data-bbox="124 972 371 1055">Dangerous incident IncNot0046032</p> <p data-bbox="124 1077 288 1144">Construction materials</p> <p data-bbox="124 1167 323 1263">Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p data-bbox="405 972 986 1227">A loaded articulated dump became bogged while tipping overburden along a dam wall. The driver failed to hear positive communication from the dozer operator and continued to reverse with the left-hand side of the truck sinking. The truck was not able to be removed under its own tractive effort.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1027 972 1465 1413">Mine operators should ensure that dam wall design, construction methodologies, and procedures are established that consider the strength, size distribution and consistency of the materials to be used when constructing dam walls. This should include geotechnical consideration of the potential for slumping and subsidence areas to form, particularly following significant rainfall events.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0046099 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion 	<p>A fictional ignition event occurred during production on a long wall when workers were heading back to the main gate cutting the roof.</p> <p>There were frictional ignition checks and 16 picks were changed. The event lasted about 60 seconds and was extinguished with 2 frictional ignition hoses.</p> 	<p>Appropriate procedures and trigger action response plans (TARPs) must be in place for when the risk changes including changes in geology and the seam section being cut. Implementing and monitoring the ventilation standards required to manage methane levels must be to a standard to minimise the risk. Ensure ventilation is installed and maintained to maximise ventilation quantities at the working face.</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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