

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 9 February 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	33
Summarised incident total	3


Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0046285 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion 	<p>A remote-control automated loader caught fire underground. The mine's fire suppression system initiated but did not fully extinguish the fire. The loader continued to burn, and the mine's emergency response was activated.</p> <p>All people were accounted for in refuge chambers and the loader was allowed to burn until the fire went out.</p>	<p>This incident is under investigation and further information may be published later.</p> <p>Mine operators should ensure that risk control measures to prevent the occurrence of fires, and response to underground fires, are implemented and remain effective.</p> <p>Emergency response procedures should be routinely examined to ensure minimum standards are met or exceeded.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		
<p data-bbox="124 981 264 1048">Dangerous incident</p> <p data-bbox="124 1070 325 1102">IncNot0046292</p> <p data-bbox="124 1124 300 1191">Open cut coal mine</p> <p data-bbox="124 1214 322 1303">Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p data-bbox="395 981 963 1124">While capping a shot, a dozer operator reversed over the edge of a bench and came to rest on a ripper box. The dozer pivoted onto its right-hand side.</p> <p data-bbox="395 1146 951 1290">The dozer operator was a trainee under instruction at the time of the incident. The operator was wearing a seatbelt and was not injured.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1015 981 1414 1384">Situational awareness is a key control when operating mobile equipment. Workers should be trained in the importance of this control and include it in their pre-task risk assessment. Ancillary systems such as GPS guidance, dispatch systems and two-way communication should be used only when it is safe to do so.</p> <p data-bbox="1015 1406 1311 1438">Refer to safety bulletin:</p> <p data-bbox="1015 1460 1401 1527"><u>SB19-01 Rise in dozer incidents putting operators at risk.</u></p>

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Dangerous incident IncNot0046294 Construction materials	<p>While inspecting and reinflating a truck tyre that had been run flat, the tyre exploded while a worker was standing in front of it. The worker was knocked over by the force. He was transported to hospital. A second worker suffered a cut over their left eye.</p> 	<p>Mine operators should review their safety management systems for assessment, inflation and management of tyres that may have been run underinflated or been subject to damage in service including consideration of reduced inflation pressures for leak testing and inspection.</p> <p>Consider the hierarchy of controls when conducting this process and what training and authorisation is required to conduct this type of work.</p> <p>Procedures should stipulate that maximum rated inflation pressures are not exceeded during inflation.</p> <p>Ensure that workers who have been appropriately trained and appointed are the only ones to conduct tyre fitting and inflation activities.</p>

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
	International (fatal)
MSHA	<p>On January 2, 2024, the driver of an over-the-road tractor-trailer haul truck died when the trailer tipped over onto the cab of the tractor. The driver was dumping part of a load of gravel from the trailer. Between 2018 and 2024, mine operators reported 14 injury accidents where over-the-road trucks tipped or rolled over while dumping. During the same period, miners were also injured when 28 off-road mine haul trucks tipped or rolled over. These incidents can be prevented with proper training and following best practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dump only on level surfaces, free of spillage. Make sure elevated dump sites are substantial and equipped with adequate dump point restraints. • Keep your truck and trailer in a straight line when backing up and never move faster than walking speed.

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Publication	Issue/topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid dumping in high or gusty wind conditions.• Stay in the cab with your seatbelt on during the dumping process. Never attempt to exit or jump from an overturning truck.• After dumping, remove any compacted material before reloading the truck.• Evenly distribute the load and use antifreeze in cold weather to prevent material from freezing and sticking in the truck bed.• Never overload trucks or trailers. <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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