

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 13 September 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 | 38 |
| Summarised incident total | 3 |

Summarised incidents

| Incident type | Summary | Comments to industry |
|--|---|---|
| Dangerous incident IncNot0047628 Underground coal mine | <p>A fitter was working on a roof support ram when a disconnected hose whipped around and hit him on the forearm, causing a laceration. The fitter was conducting planned maintenance at the time, troubleshooting why the roof support would not advance. The fitter isolated and dissipated the stored energy in the roof support correctly and had also checked the hose end was twisted before removal of the staple.</p> <p>It was found that the shuttle valve (which is piped to the rod end of the ram) underwent an internal malfunction that caused a pressure lock in the ram hose. The fitter could not have reasonably recognised this before removing the hose staple. The defective shuttle valve was the reason the support would not advance and</p> | <p>All hydraulic valves/components have a lifecycle. It is important to understand component lifecycle and plausible failure modes.</p> <p>Where there is a risk to health or safety from a component failure, mine operators should incorporate those components in their maintenance strategy to ensure those components are overhauled or replaced at appropriate intervals. This is to ensure the risk of a dangerous failure mode is minimised.</p> <p>For more information on system failures refer to:</p> <p>Safety Bulletin SB24-06 Incidents involving pressurised systems increase</p> |

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| Incident type | Summary | Comments to industry |
|---|--|---|
| | <p>was about 17 years old, (as old as the roof support).</p>  | |
| <p>High potential incident IncNot0047623 Construction materials</p> | <p>A worker suffered chemical burns to his arms after cleaning out an excavator diesel tank that had been treated with a diesel fuel biocide.</p> <p>Following treatment of the tank with the chemical product, the worker drained the tank, opened it from the bottom and reached up into the tank to clean it out. During the cleaning process, his arms were coated in diesel containing the chemical mixture.</p> | <p>Safety data sheets (SDS) for chemical substances, such as diesel fuel biocides, clearly articulate the hazards associated with its use.</p> <p>SDS information must be considered to determine the necessary controls required to ensure the health and safety of workers using the products.</p> <p>Workers must be made aware of the controls and provided with the means to prevent injury.</p> |
| <p>Dangerous incident IncNot0047636 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p>  | <p>A loaded haul truck narrowly avoided a collision with a parked-up light vehicle with one person aboard.</p> <p>The driver stopped to observe an excavator through a drainage gap in the windrow a short distance beyond a blind corner on the main haul road.</p> <p>The haul truck operator noticed the collision avoidance system (CAS) identify the vehicle on the in-cab screen and assumed it was on a lower bench.</p> <p>The haul truck continued around the corner and saw the light vehicle parked up. The operator took evasive action as there were no oncoming vehicles and crossed onto the wrong side of the haul road to prevent a potential collision with the parked light vehicle. The haul truck was brought to a stop with the retarder because the haul road had been watered.</p> | <p>The risk of a fatality from interactions between light and heavy vehicles is well known. Light vehicle drivers should be continually reminded of their obligations when driving on haul roads.</p> <p>Mine operators must ensure all roadways, intersections and park-up areas are designed, constructed, and maintained to safely manage interactions between mobile plant and light vehicles.</p> <p>We recommend using the following video for training purposes and toolbox talks.</p> <p><u>Targeted awareness campaign 2023 – vehicle interactions</u></p> |

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Other Resources Regulator publications

Investigation information release – Unplanned explosion during mining operations

The Resources Regulator has published an investigation information release following an unplanned explosion during mining operations at Mt Arthur Coal Mine, near Muswellbrook on 20 August 2024.

An unplanned blast occurred while a dozer operator was pushing waste material, from a previous (and planned) blast.

The explosion caused multiple pieces of fly rock and parts from the dozer blade to be projected about 100 meters from the incident site. The explosion left a crater measuring 1.8 metres deep, and approximately 3.5 metres wide.

Read the full [investigation information release](#)

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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| Document control | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ISSN | 2982-1010 (online) |
| CM10 reference | RDOC24/175216 |
| Mine safety reference | ISR24-36 |
| Date published | 20 September 2024 |

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Document control

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| Authorised by | Deputy Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector |
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