

SAFETY ALERT

Firefighting component issues identified

INCIDENT

A number of mines have identified significant incompatibilities with their components of underground firefighting systems.

CIRCUMSTANCES

On inspection, mines have found that some firefighting components such as hoses and fittings including nozzles, hydrants, breeching pieces and branches do not fit together correctly.

INVESTIGATION

The problem appears to be restricted to a number of underground coal mines in the Wollongong area that use British instantaneous coupling systems.

Figure 1: British instantaneous coupling - (female and male)



The root cause appears to be a drift in dimension tolerance with different manufacturers over time.

Although the problem has only been identified in one district and restricted to one coupling type, all mines should undertake the process according to the recommendations below to ensure any further incompatibility problems are identified and corrected.

	Mine Safety Alert No: SA16-05
www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/safety	File No: COMET-15/36458
ABN 72 189 919 072	Comet ID: 317656077001
	Phone: 1300 814 609
	Date published: 21 September 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that mines immediately:

1. assess the fitness for purpose of all installed firefighting systems and components to ensure component compatibility
2. develop an ongoing sampling/testing system, to ensure supplied components remain compatible
3. ensure dimension tolerances and quality controls are managed through the supply process.

Mines should consider [MDG 1032 Guideline for the prevention, early detection and suppression of fires in coal mines](#) when assessing fire fighting equipment. Section 5 provides specific recommendations for underground coal mines.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Issued by

David McLean

Chief Inspector of Mines

Appointed pursuant to Work Health & Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013

View more safety alerts and search our safety database at www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/safety-alerts. If you would like to receive safety alerts by email, enter your contact details at www.resources.nsw.gov.au/info/signup.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information on which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Industry or the user's independent advisor.