

INVESTIGATION INFORMATION RELEASE

DATE: JULY 2019

Event: Non-work-related death

Location: Maules Creek Coal Mine, NSW

Non-work-related death

Overview

A visitor attending the Maules Creek Mine Coal Handling and Processing Plant was found unconscious outside an administration building on 16 May 2019. Mine workers administered first aid to the visitor and he was air lifted to Tamworth Hospital. He died two days later.

The mine

The Maules Creek Mine is about 18 kilometres north east of Boggabri.

The mine produces thermal and metallurgical coals, which is transported by rail to Newcastle for export.

The Maules Creek Mine is operated by Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited.

The incident

The visitor, aged 66, was employed by an electrical contractor.

He was attending the mine for a meeting and collapsed outside an administration building.

He was found in an unconscious state by mine workers who applied first aid and contacted emergency services in accordance with the mine's emergency plan.

The NSW Ambulance Service responded and transported him to Boggabri Hospital where he was air lifted to Tamworth Hospital. He died on 18 May 2019.

The investigation

The NSW Resources Regulator has conducted a preliminary investigation into the circumstances of the visitor's death. As a result of the information obtained during the investigation, the Regulator does not consider the visitor's death to be work related.

Safety observations

The mine responded quickly to the visitor's condition by providing first aid and activating the mine's emergency plan.

This incident highlights the importance of first aid and emergency response arrangements. All coal mines and underground mines with more than five workers must also consult with emergency services about their emergency plans. This enables mine operators to discuss response capabilities with emergency services and develop site specific emergency plans. The mine's emergency plan must include the emergency response arrangements for on-site and off-site emergency response resources.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance material:

- [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 – clause 42 and clause 43](#)
- [Work Health and Safety Regulation \(Mines and Petroleum Sites\) Regulation 2014 – clause 89, clause 92 and Schedule 7.](#)
- [First Aid in the Workplace Code of Practice](#)
- [Emergency Planning at Mines Code of Practice](#)

About this information release

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 the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Resources Regulator or the user's independent adviser.

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