

## REPORTABLE INCIDENTS | WHS MINES LEGISLATION

# Weekly incident summary

**7 December 2016**

*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](#).*

**To report an incident call 1300 814 609 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

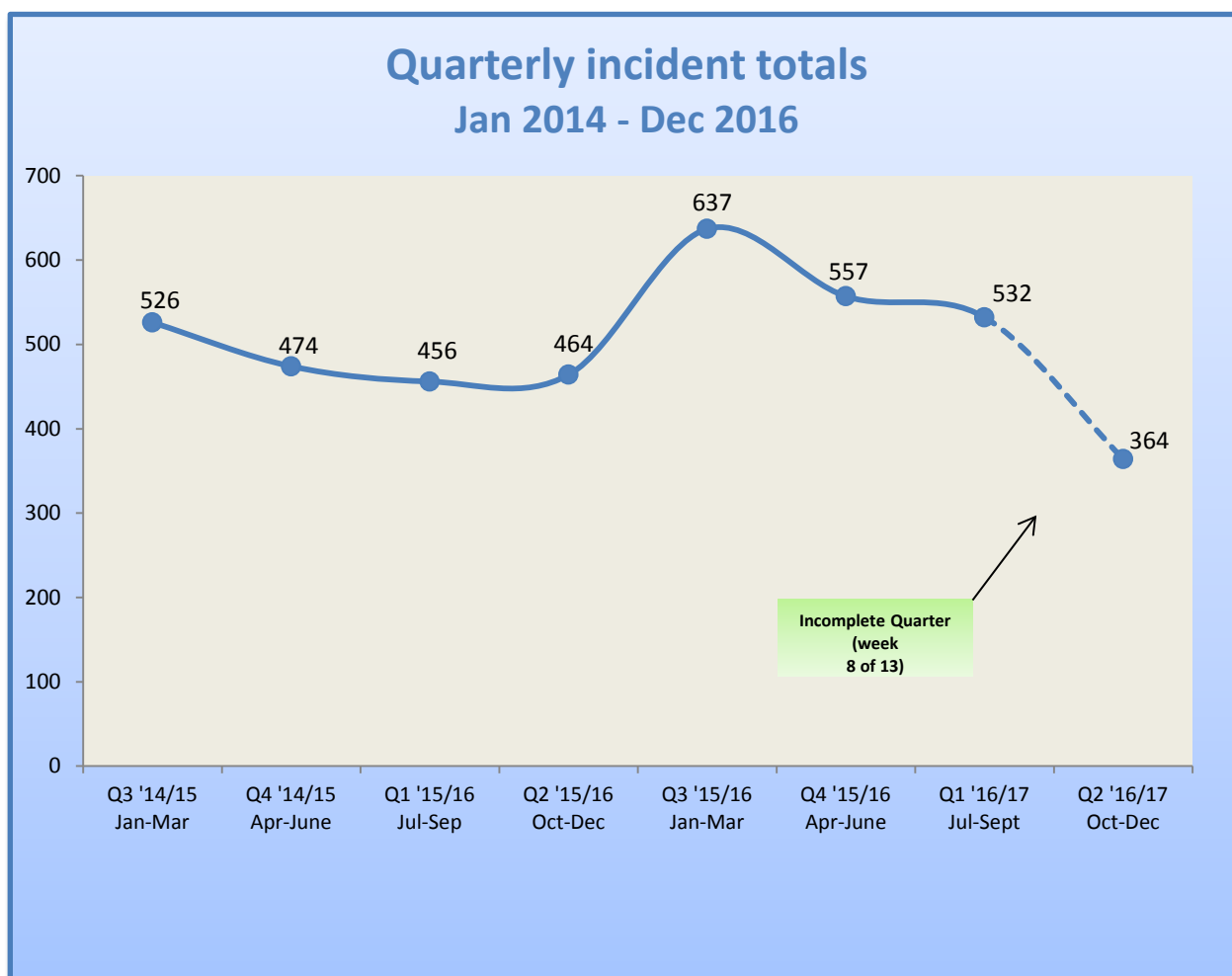
**Reportable incidents total: 42 Summarised incidents: 7**

**Summarised incidents** – incidents of note for which operators should consider the comments provided and determine if action needs to be taken.

Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
High potential incident SInNot 2016/00887	While recovering 50 mm air hoses, a production mine worker separated a coupling between two hoses without isolating the main air supply and dissipating the residual air pressure from the hoses. This resulted in flailing of the pressurised hose until the hose air pressure was isolated.	<p>A number of recent incidents have involved a failure to isolate and/or dissipate stored hydraulic or air pressure before undertaking a task. Mines should make sure safe work procedures identify this hazard and reinforce this process with the workforce.</p> <p>Effective isolation /energy dissipation is a critical risk control that requires all of the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Isolation of energy</li> <li>2) Locking of the isolation point</li> <li>3) Energy dissipation of all circuits on the downside of the isolation valve</li> <li>4) Verification (test for dead) that there is no residual pressure in the circuit</li> </ol>
High potential incident SInNot 2016/00885	Multiple methane exceedances have been reported at the longwall bleeder monitoring point during falling barometer. The maximum detected methane reading was 3.53%. There were no workers or machines in this area the time of the incident. No production-related activities were being undertaken at the time.	Mines that are subject to elevated methane readings in accessible roadways during a barometric change should review ventilation control measures. Ventilation control measures should be designed to limit methane below statutory limits.

Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
Complaint SInNot 2016/00884	Concerns were raised regarding the security fencing around a quarry and local youth having access to deep water.	The department receives regular complaints about inadequate fencing. It is the quarry operator's responsibility as the PCBU under the WHS Act to ensure the protection of workers and others against harm. A PCBU must ensure, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons are not put at risk as a result of the conduct of their operations.
Dangerous incident SInNot 2016/00883	<p>A mining-induced seismic event resulted in pieces of delaminated fibre reinforced shotcrete (FRS) being ejected from the back of an underground crusher tippie area. The FRS was installed to protect the ground support from operating LHDs.</p> <p>A parked light vehicle was damaged by the falling objects. No personnel were injured however workers were in the vicinity at the time and felt the bump. No ground support was damaged.</p>	<p>Mine operators should identify all areas subject to seismicity where shotcrete has been applied in order to protect installed ground support. The hazards associated with instantaneous ejection of shotcrete, and gradual deterioration over time, must be risk assessed and appropriate controls implemented.</p> <p>Controls may include: excavation (re)design; formal exclusion zones; post shotcrete support such as meshing.</p>
Serious injury SInNot 2016/00874	A worker was operating an LHD when he injured his back. He was delivering equipment when he reported that the machine hit a large rock on a transport road.	<p>Mines should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly check travelling roads for identification and removal of hazards to people travelling e.g. rocks and other objects.</li> <li>Following the recommendations in <a href="#">SB15-06</a> data analysis aims to reduce injuries while travelling underground and use SB15-06 Appendix B Fillable questionnaire for vehicle-related injuries.</li> </ul> <p>Remind people transporting stowage and materials throughout the mine to check their loads so as to reduce risk of material falling out onto transport roads.</p>
Dangerous incident SInNot 2016/00860	A surveyor suffered an electric shock when they made contact with a survey instrument while working under 330kV power lines. The power lines had 11 m ground clearance and the survey tool was 1.5 m off the ground on a ground on tripod.	<p>Work activities in and around high voltage and extra high voltage overhead lines must give consideration to the effects of both capacitive and inductive coupling of metallic objects and structures (including hand tools and vehicles) that are required to be used, in addition to direct contact with the lines. (Refer to AS/NZS 3007)</p> <p>Mines should consult with recognised competent earthing specialists when developing management systems for work in proximity to these overhead lines.</p>

Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
Complaint SInNot 2016/00823	The department has received a complaint in which the complainant alleged concerns about the safety culture at a mine. The concerns are related to a number of factors including not using job safety assessments (JSAs) for hazardous jobs, poor management practices of supervisors and bullying and harassment between workers that is allegedly tolerated by management.	<p>The complaint is being investigated by the department. Sites need to be aware of the need to risk assess work prior to commencement.</p> <p>Information on bullying and harassment is available on our website at: <a href="http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/topics/bullying-in-the-workplace">http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/topics/bullying-in-the-workplace</a></p> <p>SafeWork Australia also publishes guides to preventing and responding to workplace bullying and a worker's guide to dealing with bullying. See their website for more details: <a href="http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au">www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au</a></p>



## Recent incident publications

**SA16-07** [Operator suffers broken arm while operating high pressure hose](#)

**SA16-08** [Workers exposed to elevated levels of methane](#)

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## SB16-05 Exposure of copper or copper alloys to ammonium nitrate – TACN formation

You can find all our incident related publications (i.e. safety alerts, safety bulletins, incident information releases, weekly incident summaries and investigation reports) on our [website](#).

### Further information

Email: [mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au):

#### COAL (NORTH) and EAST METEX

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