

WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 10 April 2020

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	25
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATIONS TO INDUSTRY
Serious injury IncNot0037143 Underground coal mine	<p>While installing a ventilation tube, a worker was sucked into the tube and briefly lost consciousness. Two other workers were unable to remove the worker from the tube until an auxiliary fan was shut down.</p> <p>The auxiliary fan's variable inlet vanes were set to 13 cubic metres per second and the ventilation tubing was about 90 metres to the face via a 90 degree elbow and a T-piece.</p>	<p>Control measures and procedures in relation to installing ventilation tubes while auxiliary fans are in operation should include identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ safe operating ranges for workers installing ventilation tubes ■ the sequence of steps to take, in order to safely add ducting inline



- guards on the most inbye tube, to minimise the risk of workers being sucked into or against the ducting while working adjacent to it (e.g. on continuous miner platforms).

Dangerous incident

IncNot0037126

Open cut coal mine



Fire or explosion

A worker saw smoke coming from a sound suppression box on top of a hydraulic cooler room on an excavator. The worker manually activated the fire suppression system and a water cart was also used to extinguish the fire.

The excavator had undergone maintenance earlier in the day, and fish plates had been welded onto the bottom of the sound suppression box. The excavator had been idle for about an hour before starting up.



Inspections conducted after maintenance, particularly when hot work has been undertaken, should identify new hazards that may have been inadvertently introduced as a result of that task. Appropriate controls should be put in place to manage the risks.

Dangerous
incident
IncNot0037125
Open cut coal
mine



Roads or other
vehicle operating
areas

A dump truck was reversing to a tip head when it breached a windrow, with two wheels going through the windrow. No-one was injured.



Mines should have systems in place to ensure windrow standards are regularly verified and maintained. Ground stability should be considered when planning a dump site.

Mine operators should review how their supervisors monitor critical controls and determine what actions to take when critical controls are identified as being inadequate.

Tipping procedures should be reviewed to ensure that dump trucks do not tip close to edges.

Dumps should be maintained in a straight line, with windrows constructed of predominantly dry, competent material to a specified height.

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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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Regional NSW or the user's independent advisor.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Mine safety reference	ISR20-15
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Approved by	Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector
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