Weekly incident summary

Planning & Environment
Resources Regulator

Week ending 14 June 2017

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

Type	Number
Reportable incident total	30
Summarised incident total	6

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Recommendations to industry
Workplace death SinNot 2017/00861	A worker was found deceased by his colleagues on the surface of an underground mine.	Investigations are continuing. The cause of death will be determined by the NSW Coroner.
High potential incident SinNot 2017/00880	A dump truck driver lost the steering on his truck. The cause was reported by the mine operator to be a failed steering hose connected to the accumulator and resulting in a loss of oil.	Safety critical systems are fundamental to the safe operation of mobile plant. These systems include: • braking systems • steering systems • warning systems • operator restraint • operator protection. Mines should assess the risks associated with operating mobile plant by taking into consideration the failure modes of all critical systems. Daily pre-start safety checks should be rigorously carried out. Mobile plant operators should be familiar with warning systems that may indicate a failure of a safety critical system. Refer to: • Safety bulletin: Mobile plant - safety critical systems • Safety alert: Maintenance of safety critical systems - braking, steering and warning systems

High potential incident SinNot 2017/00868	A 66kV feed tripped during night shift at a mine, resulting in the loss of the gas drainage plant. As this was the only plant running at the time, the mine followed its procedures to withdraw people from the mine. The trip was re-set and the methane level did not exceed 2%.	Effective gas drainage and main ventilation systems are essential for the control of gas and the safe operation of coal mines. Where these systems are compromised by electrical power supply faults, the cause must be investigated thoroughly. Trigger action response plans (TARPs) must be enacted immediately after alarms have been activated. Strategies to improve reliability include: • assessing and managing failure modes • a protection study to ensure supply and protection adequacy • a protection grading review • appropriate maintenance strategies • frequencies and production windows to ensure scheduled maintenance is performed on-time.
Dangerous incident SinNot 2017/00864	A maintenance technician noticed smoke coming from the engine bay of a Volvo L120 (IT12). The Volvo had just arrived at an underground fuel bay. When the technician opened the engine bay cover, he noticed flames coming from the Volvo. The fire was extinguished by the on-board fire suppression system and a hand-held extinguisher.	The fuel for the fire was identified as residual coolant in exhaust lagging. The heat of the exhaust evaporated the water. This left residual glycol in a crystallised state. The glycol reached its flash point, causing the fire to ignite. Effective maintenance practices are essential in preventing the ignition of combustible fluids from hose or pipe failures. Where practicable, hoses should be segregated from hot surfaces using hard barriers. Non-flammable coolants should be used. Mine operators should consider the guidance in Australian Standard 5062:2016 *Fire protection for mobile and transportable equipment*.
Dangerous incident SinNot 2017/00862	A worker stumbled while walking past the surface switch room and put his hand on an air conditioner unit (415v) to steady himself. He felt what he described as a 'tingle'. He did not report the incident at first, but was later sent for an electrocardiogram (ECG). The air conditioner, which was operating at the time, was isolated.	Investigations have identified that the air conditioner unit had a high earth resistance to the external frame and an internal anti-condensation heater coil with failed insulation. Other similar air conditioners were also inspected. The inspections revealed that other air conditioners had similar defects with the low voltage anti-condensation heater coil. Routine air conditioner maintenance should include schedules for internal electrical inspections as well as the testing of insulation resistance and earth continuity to exposed conductive materials. Mine sites should also consider the adequacy of induction packages to cover notifiable incidents,

		including the requirements for scene preservation.
Serious injury SinNot 2017/00859	A contractor was struck in the jaw by the handle of a Hi-Lift Wallaby jack. The jack was being used to lift a roof support post in a gravity tank. The contractor suffered a suspected fractured jaw and may have a serious head injury.	Selecting the correct lifting equipment is important to keep workers safe. Equipment must be fit-for-purpose, have pre-use inspections and staff members need to be trained in how to use the equipment. Hazards should be assessed at the worksite before any work begins.

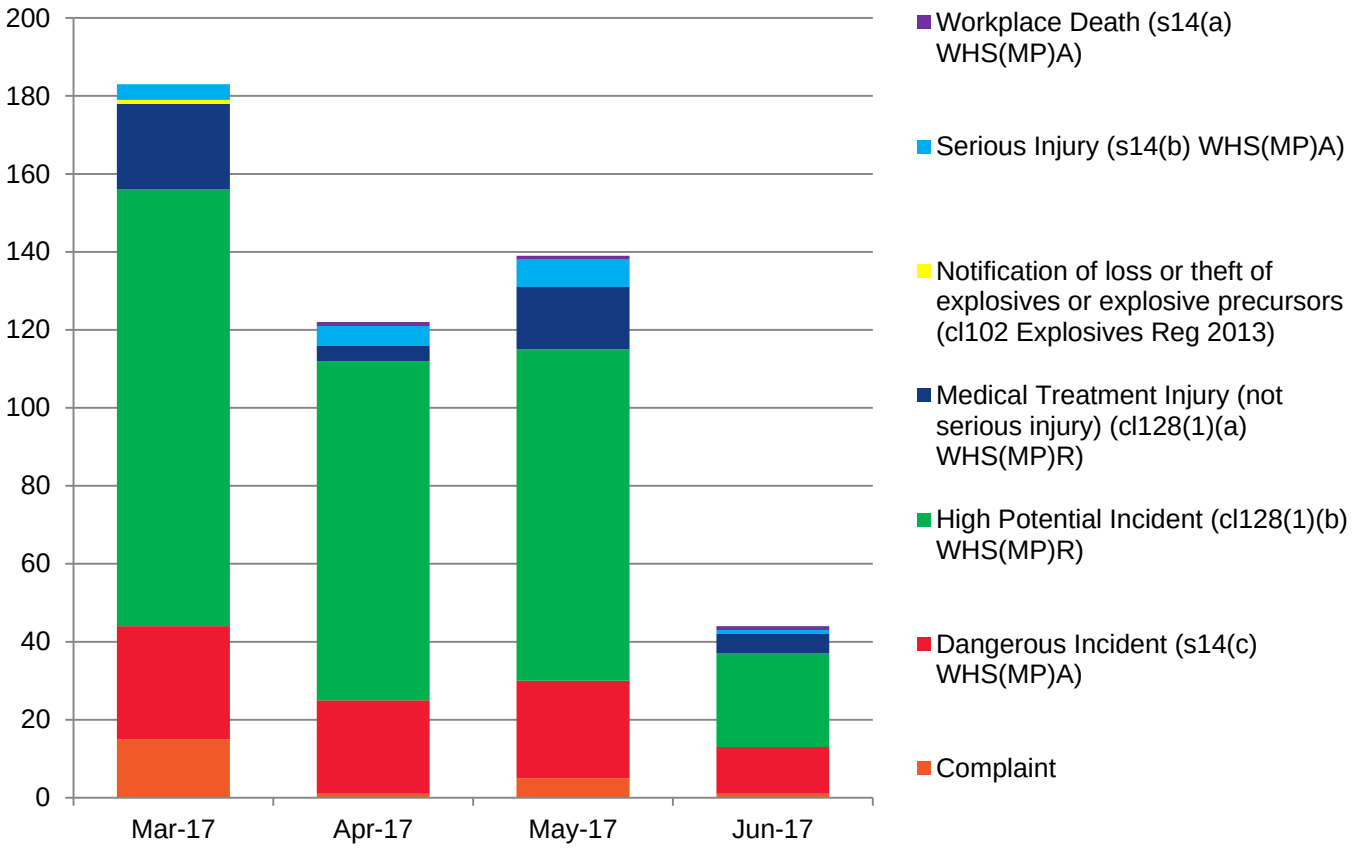
Note: While the majority of incidents are reported and recorded within a week of the event, some are notified outside this time period. The incidents in this report therefore have not necessarily occurred in a one week period. All newly recorded incidents, whatever the incident date, are reviewed by the Chief Inspector and senior staff each week. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our annual performance measures reports.

Recent incident publications

- investigation information release: Fatality on the surface of an underground coal mine
- investigation information release: Excavator cabin detaches and falls
- investigation information release: Fatality at Perilya Southern Operations
- investigation report: Report into the incident involving a worker at Ulan West Operations on 26 November 2015

You can find all our incident related publications (that is, safety alerts, safety bulletins, incident information releases, weekly incident summaries and investigation reports) on our website.

Reported incidents by month



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 Planning and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

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RM8 reference	PUB17/327
Mine safety reference	ISR17-23
Date published	21/06/17