

FACT SHEET

Planned Inspection Program - Fire or explosion mechanical - Underground coal operations

November 2020



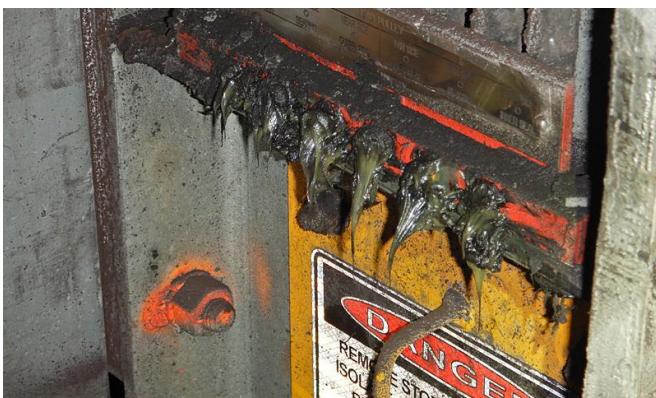
The principal mining hazard of fire or explosion has many elements which exist within the mining environment and can potentially cause serious and/or fatal injuries to workers if not controlled effectively.

The Resources Regulator is commencing a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments across the underground coal mining industry in NSW which will be focussing on the critical controls identified below and ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.



Manage fuel sources

Limit accumulation of unnecessary fuel in proximity to a potential source of ignition.



Minimise friction and control hot surfaces

Heat that transfers to external surfaces of plant cannot ignite fuel.

FACT SHEET

Planned Inspection Program - Fire or explosion mechanical -
Underground coal operations



Non-metallic material properties

Non-metallic materials do not propagate fire or produce hazardous products of combustion.

Automatic fire suppression

Fire systems automatically detect, alarm, and suppress fires to provide opportunity for escape.



Flammable fluid containment

Flammable fluid containment prevents contact with an ignition source.

Considerations

Mines should consider the above criteria as a minimum and ensure that such information is included within their respective principal hazard management plans and associated documentation. Following investigations into fire or explosion incidents which have a mechanical focus, it is evident that non-compliance to these key control measures have contributed to incident outcomes, which has caused both severe and fatal injuries to workers. When identifying and implementing control measures, mines are also reminded to follow the hierarchy of controls to ensure health and safety risks are minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

Other relevant safety alerts and bulletins published by the NSW Resources Regulator

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
October 2020	Quarterly Report	Fires on Mobile Plant: January – March 2020
18 May 2020	SB20-02	Fire suppression system fails to discharge
07 Nov 2019	SB19-14	Conveyor pulley failures initiate fires

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
October 2019	Position Paper	Preventing fires on mobile plant
26 Apr 2019	SA19-02	Truck catches fire underground
05 Jul 2018	SA18-08	Underground mine fire initiates emergency response
September 2017	Analysis Report	In-service fires on mobile plant
26 Nov 2013	SB13-05	Underground fires

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2020. You may copy, distribute, display, download and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute Regional NSW as the owner. However, you must obtain permission if you wish to charge others for access to the publication (other than at cost); include the publication in advertising or a product for sale; modify the publication; or republish the publication on a website. You may freely link to the publication on a departmental website.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (November 2020) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including Regional NSW), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.

DOC20/916462