

# FACT SHEET

## Planned Inspection Program - Inundation or inrush - Underground coal operations

November 2020



The principal hazard of inundation or inrush within the underground coal environment can be caused by various sources and potentially result in serious and/or fatal injuries to workers if not controlled effectively. The NSW Resources Regulator has commenced a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments which will be focussing on the following criteria.

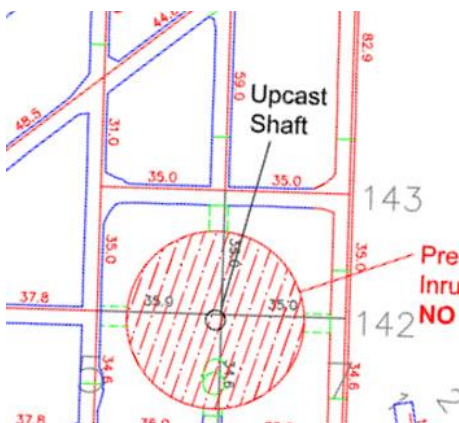


### Restrict access to inundation or inrush zones

Eliminate the exposure of people to an inundation or inrush event.

### Minimise magnitude of fluid source

Eliminate or reduce the stored energy available to an inundation or inrush event.



### Design fluid pathways

Prevent the accumulation of fluid that could become an inundation or inrush hazard.



## Containment design and construction

Isolate the stored energy of the inundation or inrush hazard from people.

## 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 inundation or inrush incidents, 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
September 2020	IIR20-07	<a href="#">Partial collapse of a ventilation shaft</a>
May 2014	Investigation report	<a href="#">Serious inrush incident at Cadia East mine</a>
January 2011	SA11-01	<a href="#">Water inrush from raisebore hole</a>
June 1998	Summary of findings	<a href="#">Gretley Inquiry Summary</a>

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