NSW GOVERNMENT

NSW Resources Regulator

WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 15 July 2022

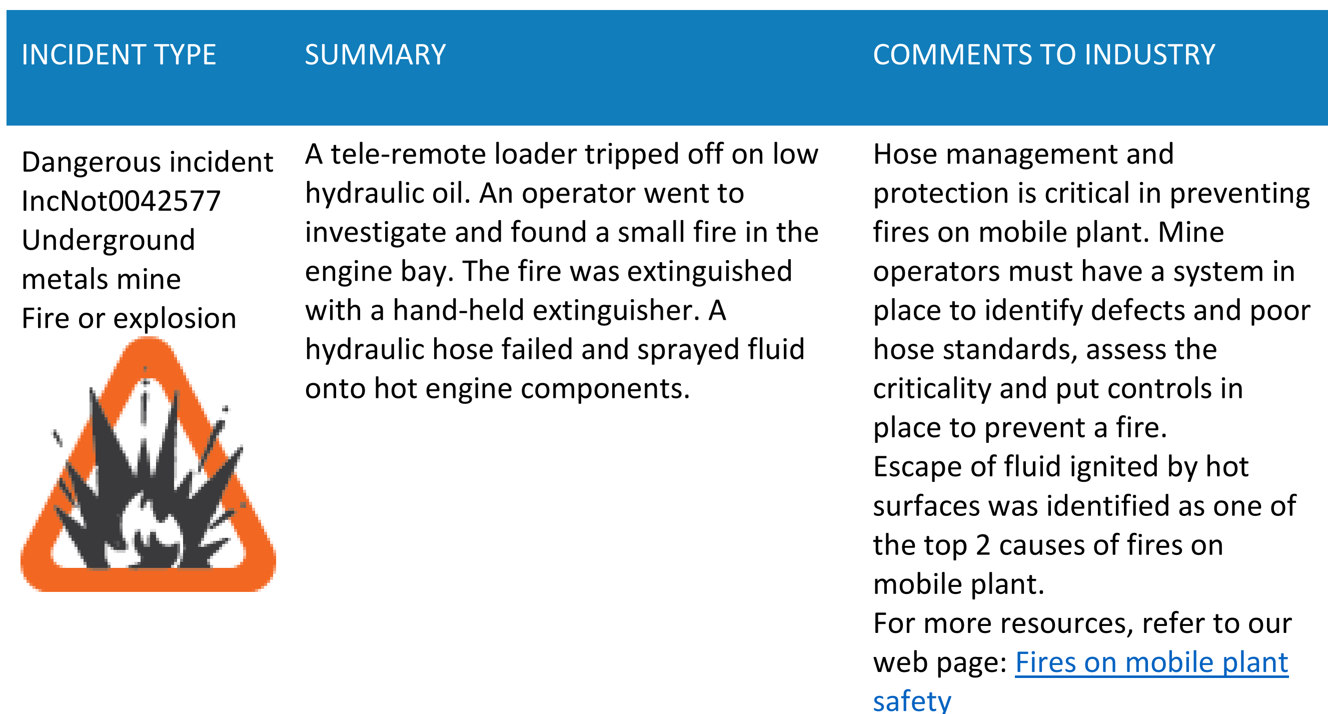
This incident summary provides information on reportable incidents and safety advice for the NSW mining industry. To report an incident to the NSW Resources Regulator: phone 1300 814 609 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At a glance

High level summary of emerging trends and our recommendations to operators.

TYPE	NUMBER
Reportable incident total	28
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	COMMENTS TO INDUSTRY
Dangerous incident IncNot0042577 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion 	A tele-remote loader tripped off on low hydraulic oil. An operator went to investigate and found a small fire in the engine bay. The fire was extinguished with a hand-held extinguisher. A hydraulic hose failed and sprayed fluid onto hot engine components.	Hose management and protection is critical in preventing fires on mobile plant. Mine operators must have a system in place to identify defects and poor hose standards, assess the criticality and put controls in place to prevent a fire. Escape of fluid ignited by hot surfaces was identified as one of the top 2 causes of fires on mobile plant. For more resources, refer to our web page: Fires on mobile plant safety

Dangerous incident IncNot0042587 Open cut coal mine Ground or strata failure 	While a dump truck was being loaded at the toe of a highwall, material from in front of the presplit fell from the highwall and landed in the rear of the truck tray. The truck tray head-board lifted two to 3 metres and then free fell back down into the lowered position. The 2 operators in the cab were shaken and suffered minor injuries. The highwall where the failure occurred was not excavated back to the presplit wall, leaving potentially loose material hanging up on the wall. As the coal was removed below, the material in front of the presplit wall collapsed quickly. The loose material on the wall was not identified as part of the site's geotechnical hazard reports.	Mine operators must have safe systems of work in place to inspect highwalls. These inspections must consider conditions that may affect highwall stability. An assessment of the integrity of the highwall must be conducted before commencing work beneath the highwall. Loose material or overhanging rocks must be removed before any work commences or appropriate controls, such as an exclusion zone, put into place. Refer to Safety Bulletin: SB20-01 Failure of highwalls, low walls and dumps.

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Dangerous incident
IncNot0042593
Underground coal mine

While lowering a roof support on a longwall recovery face, a fitter was hit in the chest by a release of fluid from a 63 mm return hose. The worker was about 1 metre from the point of failure.

Mine operators must develop and adhere to strict inspection and maintenance standards to avoid hose failures because of damaged and aged hoses.

When procedures specify the use of remotes and pendants, workers should not be entering no go zones to operate roof supports manually.

For further information refer to: [MDG-41-Fluid-power-systems]

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Other publications of interest

The incidents are included for your review. The NSW Resources Regulator does not endorse the findings or recommendations of these incidents. It is your legal duty to exercise due diligence to ensure the business complies with its work health and safety obligations.

PUBLICATION	ISSUE/TOPIC
	International (fatal)
US Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)	On 20 June, 2022, a contract driller was working outside of his drill when he fell from the top of a highwall at 3M Little Rock. Details
Energy Safety Canada	The driver of a tank truck was unloading fluid at a production facility. The driver was found unresponsive inside the pump box of the truck with their left arm sleeve entangled in the pump shaft. After an hour and 30 minutes of resuscitation efforts by workers and emergency response personnel, the worker was declared deceased from mechanical asphyxiation. Details
	International (other, non-fatal)
NZ MinEx	An excavator operator climbed up onto his digger to check the oil as part of his prestart checks. As he climbed down from the excavator holding the handrail, the worker missed the first step and fell to the ground, landing on his back. First aid was applied, and the worker did not sustain any serious injuries. Details
	National (other, non fatal)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	The bucket of an excavator working a double bench operation collided with the dovetail of a rear dump truck when swinging towards the truck tray. The excavator was on the lower 3.5 m high bench at the time of the incident. The impact caused a significant amount of movement to the truck and injury to the operator. The injured operator suffered a fracture to the C5 vertebrae, resulting in hospitalisation for a number of days. Details
Worksafe Victoria	WorkSafe is issuing a reminder about the importance of managing the risks associated with electrical energy while conducting surface mining and exploration activities.

	An air core exploration drill rig was being set up to drill a hole located within a farmer's paddock. The operator had lowered the stabilising jack legs and was in the process of raising the mast when the winching cable made contact with a 12.7kV Single-Wire Earth Return (SWER) overhead powerline. The SWER line was approximately 7 m above ground level. The drill operator suffered a shock and immediately retreated from the rig at which point the overhead line was observed. Re-exposing themself to the electrical hazard, the operator approached the rig and activated the rig's hydraulic levers with a 'shovel' to lower the mast. Details
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	RSHQ released Q3 incident periodical for the Queensland Coal Mines Inspectorate for recent high potential incidents. Incidents include equipment in body of water at surface mine, rock impacting excavator cabin in surface mine, rib strata failure at underground mine, serious injury at surface mine, structural failure of equipment at surface mine, dragline rigging failure at surface mine, equipment falling off jack at surface mine and a vehicle rollover at a surface mine. Details

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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DOCUMENT CONTROL	
CM9 reference	DOC22/199223
Mine safety reference	ISR22-28
Date published	22 July 2022
Approved by	Deputy Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector