

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 27 January 2023



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	47
Summarised incident total	5

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous Incident</p> <p>IncNot0043933</p> <p>Open cut coal mine</p> <p>Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p>An electric rope shovel was loading a truck on the offside. A cat wheel dozer was hit with the shovel counterweight on the front left hand corner, striking the front walkway, handrail and cabin.</p> 	<p>Collisions between mobile plant during clean-up activities are well-known and documented.</p> <p>It is recommended that when mine operators review their documented systems of work regarding working on or around excavation equipment, they consider the hierarchy of controls and the reliance on administrative controls (positive communications), which are susceptible to human factors.</p>

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<p>Dangerous Incident IncNot004343936 Underground coal mine Ground or strata failure</p> 	<p>A small coal burst occurred on a longwall during remote production. The face was being operated at the DCB in the main gate. At the time of the burst, the shearer was cutting the roof into the tailgate and the burst threw a small amount of coal over the tailgate ranging arm. About one 20 litre bucket of small fines and various lumps of coal (up to 80 x 50 mm in size) was seen on the goaf side of the spill trays. The face was on remote mining due to a thrust fault running sub-parallel to the main gate (noting that the burst occurred towards the tailgate end).</p> <p>It was noted that the goaf was standing about 15 m back behind the chocks in the area of the burst. There was no gas make to the longwall face or tailgate during or after this event.</p>	<p>The control of remote mining has been shown to effectively prevent exposing workers to a risk of serious injury or death.</p> <p>However remote mining should not replace other controls which also reduce the likelihood of the coal burst as well as the exposure.</p> <p>Where reasonably practicable, mine operators should consider remote mining as part of a multi-tiered approach to the management of risk in the mining workplace.</p>
<p>Dangerous Incident IncNot0043970 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>A shotcrete rig was set up to spray in an ore drive. As the agitator reversed into position behind the shotcrete rig, the shotcrete rig operator noticed a 200 mm high flame in the engine bay above the turbo. The shotcrete rig operator activated the emergency stop and the fire suppression system using the rear activation point on the agitator.</p> <p>The fire suppression system extinguished the flames and a hand-held fire extinguisher was also deployed as a precaution.</p> 	<p>Mine operators must have systems in place to ensure that mobile plant is cleaned following a service to ensure that flammable substances are removed from potential heat sources.</p>

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<p>Dangerous Incident IncNot0043971 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>An underground load haul dump (LHD) vehicle was unable to start due to the loss of compressed air in an underground coal mine. Another underground mine vehicle (personnel transporter) was used to provide air to the LHD so that it could start. While the personnel transport was at high revs the operators reported that they saw red embers come from the exhaust and smelled an unusual burning smell. The workers immediately shut down the machine and preserved the scene. No further evidence of fire was observed.</p>	<p>The failure of an explosion-protected diesel engine system underground has the potential to be extremely serious. Maintenance systems must be robust and ensure that failures of explosion protection are identified as soon as reasonably practicable.</p> <p>Investigations into the cause and circumstance are ongoing.</p>
<p>Dangerous Incident IncNot0043978 Surface coal mine</p>	<p>A worker was operating a Merlo JVE03 loading salvage pack onto 6 m sled. While operating the raise function, it became stuck, causing the load to raise. Operating the down function stopped the load. Releasing the down function raised the load again. The load was lowered to the ground. After placing the load on the ground, the operator did a function test again and the event repeated. The machine was placed out of service and the incident scene was secured.</p> 	<p>Uncontrolled vehicle movements like this one are a known risk. Mine operators should consider the risk of uncontrolled machine movements when developing controls for the safe egress of pedestrians in and around mobile plant operating areas.</p>

Note: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety alert and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

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If you are required to insert an image, make sure you include a caption. Position the image where it is required, right-click the image and click Insert Caption. Type your caption following the figure number, for position select below image and click OK. See example below.

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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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