

# Weekly incident summary

## Week ending 17 March 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	45
Summarised incident total	4

### Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0044301 Underground coal mine	A control room operator changed a pressure gauge on a regulator fitted to a nitrogen bottle. When pressure was applied, the gauge failed and burst. A piece that was ejected grazed the worker's jaw. The bottle contained nitrogen at 200 bar. The installed gauge was rated to 200psi (14 bar).	Workers must ensure any component being changed out is like-for-like. Where like-for-like components are not available, alternatives must undergo a thorough assessment to ensure the replacement is suitable and without risk.  Work involving pressurised systems and components must only be carried out by workers who are competent, trained and appointed.



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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0044294 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>An operator drove a load haul dump (LHD) into an inadequately ventilated heading. The onboard methane shutdown system was triggered and shut down the LHD. The operator had a hand-held methanometer that reached 2.5% methane. The worker immediately withdrew and notified the control room. Ventilation was re-established to the heading and degassed. It was found that a brattice stopping had been removed, which allowed the ventilation to short circuit, leaving the heading unventilated.</p>	<p>Workers must be able to verify that statutory ventilation inspections have been completed and that there is adequate ventilation for themselves and the machines they are operating before entering a roadway.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0044289 Open cut coal mine Inundation or inrush of any substance</p> 	<p>While mining in a development panel, a continuous miner exposed a fault-related void that contained water. The water entered the working face. The inflow of water slowed significant by the end of the shift.</p> 	<p>Mine operators should review their procedures for advancing towards a known geological structure to ensure the presence of gas and/or water has been considered and controls are in place.</p> <p>Mine operators should then consider what equipment is required to have on standby.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0044292 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p>On night shift, a haul truck entered a dump and lost sight of a dozer when it was reversing. The truck was positioned between a lighting tower and the dozer, casting a shadow over the dozer.</p> <p>The truck did not feel any contact so the operator drove out to re-set, reversed in and dumped. The dozer operator called to stop the truck. The worker was uninjured.</p> 	<p>Mine operators should review dump procedures and consider segregation or bunded areas for dozers.</p> <p>Lighting plants must be positioned to avoid glare and shadowing work areas. When workers identify hazards for inadequacy with lighting in their work area, they should immediately report this to their supervisor.</p>

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## Other Resources Regulator news

### New videos published on our YouTube channel

The NSW Resources Regulator facilitated a causal investigation into an incident at Peak Gold Mine on 18 May 2022 where there was an unplanned partial initiation of a blast. At the time of the event, all controls to prevent exposure to blasting hazards were in place and no-one was in the vicinity of the unplanned initiation. Go to our [YouTube channel](#) to view the video.

There are a range of risks associated with opal mining. The Regulator has published a safety video outlining some of the hazards of working in and around a mine shaft, including working under suspended loads, working at heights, person riding hoists and falling objects. Go to our [YouTube channel](#) to view the video.

### 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
	<b>National (other, non-fatal)</b>
<b>Resources Safety &amp; Health Queensland</b>	An explosives mobile processing unit (MPU) was towing a fully loaded trailer of ammonium nitrate prill and emulsion when it slowed down to stop at roadworks. The trailer was hit from behind by a loaded commercial freight B-double truck. The impact caused the MPU trailer to roll over onto its side, which resulted in a spillage of about 1.5 tonnes of ammonium nitrate. <a href="#">Details</a>

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	RDOC23/72972
Mine safety reference	ISR23-12
Date published	24 March 2023
Authorised by	Deputy Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector