

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 5 May 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	42
Summarised incident total	1

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
High potential incident Construction materials Airborne dust and other contaminants 	<p>An operator of several quarries notified multiple incidents when workers were exposed to respirable dust and crystalline silica that exceeded the specified limits. During the testing the following was observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A worker was operating an excavator for 12 hours with the windows down as the air conditioning was not functioning.• A control room operator was exposed to double the time-adjusted limit. The worker had shovelled material for 2 hours and completed 2 plant inspections.• A worker exceeded the limit for respirable silica by 80%, duties for the day were operating the water cart and office duties.• A worker exceeded the limit for respirable silica by 80%, the worker spent the shift driving a loader.	<p>When controls are put in place to manage dust exposure they must be maintained. This includes controls such as sprays and curtains, door seals and air conditioner filtration.</p> <p>Workers must comply with procedures in place to minimise exposure to dust. This may include windows-up policies, the use of PPE and using the correct cleaning methods to prevent stirring-up dust.</p> <p>All workers must be considered when assessing the risk of exposure to airborne contaminants. Recent notifications have included control room operators, weigh-bridge attendants, and stores and warehouse workers.</p> <p>Refer to our website for more information and resources (here).</p>

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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
	National (other, non-fatal)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	An original equipment manufacturer (OEM) advised of an incident where an underground coal mine worker reported seeing a spark generated when a drill steel came in contact with a rare earth magnet. As ferrite core magnets and rare earth magnets are used extensively, this Safety Alert is issued to alert industry to a potential safety hazard involving the use of rare earth magnets. These magnets are commonly found on equipment such as continuous miners, miner-bolters, multi-bolters and longwalls operating in hazardous environments.
	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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