

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 19 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	41
Summarised incident total	1

Summarised incidents





Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous Incident IncNot0044684 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion	A crew was driving into a mine and noticed smoke while passing a transfer. Smouldering coal was found behind the guard of the boot end. The crew stopped the belt, removed the guard and started hosing down. The conveyor was restarted to wash out additional material. The conveyor was stopped and the area cooled and the scene was preserved. A fire watch was put in place.	Mine operators should review transfers and boot ends for areas where coal fines and spillage could accumulate. Guards should be designed for ease of inspection and cleaning.





Picture 1: original guarding

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		
<p data-bbox="124 712 373 920"> Dangerous Incident IncNot0044701 Open cut coal mine Ground or strata failure </p> 	<p data-bbox="416 712 1029 936"> An excavator was being used to dig out a sediment dam. The bench above the excavator let go, releasing about 20 tonnes of consolidated fines onto the excavator. The operator was able to tram the excavator clear of the material and was not injured. The task was being carried out under a generic procedure. </p>  	<p data-bbox="1050 712 1465 875"> When working under benches and walls, a safe stand-off distance should be defined, communicated with workers and maintained throughout the task. </p> <p data-bbox="1050 887 1465 1010"> Supervisors should increase the frequency of inspections when workers are conducting tasks near benches. </p> <p data-bbox="1050 1025 1465 1149"> Specific task risk assessments and procedures should be used and include assessment of the work environment. </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)
NT WorkSafe	<p>NT WorkSafe has charged a Darwin-based mining company after one of its workers suffered an electric shock at a mine site in the Roper Gulf Region. In September 2022, a 36-year-old process operator on night shift suffered an electric shock to their hand after accessing an electrical cabinet. The worker was attempting to restart pumping equipment that had stopped, causing flooding in a mineral's storage shed. The worker finished their shift before reporting the incident to the site manager. Australian Ilmenite Resources Pty Ltd has been charged with two breaches of <i>the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011</i>.</p> <p>Details</p>
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	<p>An operator of a drilling operating plant has been unable to demonstrate compliance with a safety requirement to ensure its workers have the mandated competencies to conduct work at well sites.</p> <p>An audit of how the operator's safety management system met requirements in section 675 of the <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i> for a skills assessment of its workers and their training program revealed unacceptably high levels of personnel without qualifications, and excessive reliance on direct supervision.</p> <p>Details</p>

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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