

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 11 Aug 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	46
Summarised incident total	2

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0045182 Underground metals Fire or explosion 	While refilling the tank on a water cart, the operator could smell something burning and found a small fire around the exhaust system. The operator extinguished the fire with a hand-held extinguisher. Diesel residue was found below the fuel filters above the DPF unit on the water cart Damaged gaskets and loose bolts were found on the exhaust unit. 	Mine operators should ensure stringent monitoring and quality control of maintenance and repair activities. Refer to: MDG15 Guideline for mobile and transportable plant for use at mines (other than underground coal mines) AS 5062 <i>Fire protection for mobile and transportable equipment</i> provides further guidance for mines. For more resources, refer to our webpage: Fires on mobile plant safety

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045225</p> <p>Underground coal mine</p> <p>Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>Longwall operators smelt burning and found a 30 cm flame on the side of the conveyor boot-end pulley.</p> <p>The belt was stopped, and water was applied to the pulley. The flame reignited once the water was taken off. Water was reapplied, the flame extinguished, and the water left running on the pulley with a spotter in attendance.</p> <p>The heat source of the fire was identified as a bearing failure.</p> <p>The temperature probes installed were discovered to be 290 mm long compared with a specified length of 450 mm contributing to the lack of warning of failure.</p> 	<p>Where condition monitoring is used as a risk control for hazards such as fire, a commissioning process must be in place to ensure the systems are effective. Warning and trip points should be reviewed to ensure adequate detection prior to a failure occurring.</p>

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	<p>A worker suffered a serious injury to their eye due to an uncontrolled movement of equipment during work activities associated with a rig camp move. The injury required immediate surgery with interim medical advice confirming there will be permanent damage to the eye. A truck driver was assisting with dismantling plant and equipment in preparation to relocate a rig camp. This task included storing removed equipment into a tool shack. An earthing rod was placed vertically inside a tool shack where it fell and rebounded, striking the worker in the eye.</p> <p>Details</p>
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	<p>A full, (20 tonne) off-spec shipping container of security sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN) was incorrectly stored in the empty container area. A transport triple road train combination vehicle attended the mine site reload to collect empty residual bulk SSAN containers and the full container was loaded onto the centre trailer and incorrectly recorded by the site consignor as an empty residual container. During the</p>

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Publication	Issue/topic
	<p>journey from the reload location, the driver identified that a container was full and activated his security plan and travelled to a secure location.</p> <p>Details</p>
<p>Resources Safety & Health Queensland</p>	<p>Pick & carry cranes (commonly referred to as Franna cranes) are widely used in coal mines, however, they have been involved in several concerning incidents involving rollovers, loads falling, mechanical failures as well as uncontrolled movements and collisions. Further incidents in July 2023 have been added below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On 31 July 2023, an articulated mobile crane and three workers were despatched to turn a pump protection cover over. During the lift, the load moved unexpectedly and struck one of the coal mine workers below the right knee. The skin was cut and lacerated to the bone and possible fracture to the leg. The coal mine worker was transferred to the hospital, and the injuries identified included a broken tibia and fibula. - On 16 July 2023, an event occurred at a CHPP train loadout facility, whereby a 25 Tonne articulating mobile crane was in the process of unloading a temporary building off a transport truck. During this process, the Crane rolled onto its side. The crane operator was transferred to the hospital, and the injuries identified included significant bruising. <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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