

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 15 September 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	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0045387 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion 	<p>While a miner driver was trimming the floor, he began to shear up and the head was raised about one metre. The driver heard 2-3 thundering sounds and an orange flame went from the middle of the head to the top of the face.</p> <p>The flame extinguished after 2-3 seconds. Workers used a hose and discharged 2 fire extinguishers to blanket the area.</p> <p>Before the event ventilation was recorded at 11.5 m³/s, the methane general body reading was 0.4%. There was some layering between 0.7-0.9% CH₄ (at TRS) and ~ 0.5% CH₄ at the cutter head before the incident.</p> <p>An initial investigation suggested that sparking from the cutter pick, striking a hard object ignited gas.</p>	<p>All underground coal mines are required to have a frictional ignition plan that must be continuously reviewed to account for changing conditions in the seam.</p>
Dangerous incident IncNot0045399 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas	<p>A service cart tipped onto its side when negotiating a bend near a haul road intersection. The truck was turning onto a light vehicle road from an old haul road when the truck drove onto the lower part of the windrow causing it to overturn.</p> <p>The operator self-evacuated.</p>	<p>Vehicle operators need to remain situationally aware when changing from one designated road type to another and drive to the conditions.</p> <p>Mine operators should ensure that traffic procedures account for</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
	<p>The incident occurred during daylight hours. The road was dry and flat, and visibility was clear.</p> 	<p>medium-sized vehicles traveling on roads intended for light vehicles.</p>
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0045403 Underground coal Fire or explosion</p> 	<p>A load haul dump (LHD) with an empty roof support trailer was travelling outbye when the operator smelled smoke and saw flames under the engine, within the engine bay.</p> <p>The investigation identified a failed universal joint.</p> 	<p>Maintenance procedures must ensure that universal joints are included in maintenance schedules.</p>

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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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