

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 1 December 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




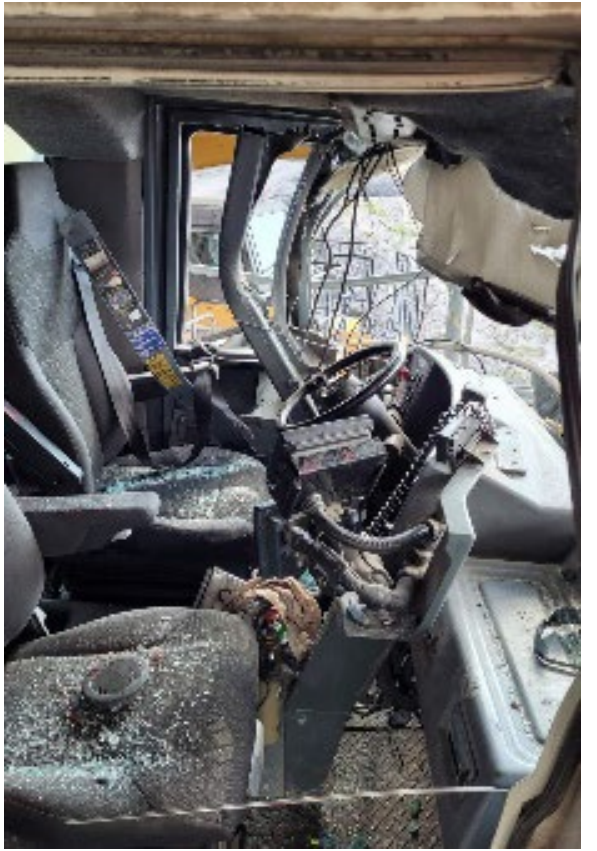
High level summary of emerging trends and our recommendations to operators.

Type	Number
Reportable incident total	44
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0045903 Metals processing	While oxy-cutting a support beam, the spotter, standing 8 m away from the hot work, noticed there was a red glow from the bottom of the acetylene cylinder. The hot work was stopped immediately and the cylinder was watered down for 45 minutes. The valve was then closed, and the cylinder was removed from other cylinders in close vicinity. The cylinder was set aside for one hour and monitored. The operators then loaded the cylinder to the back of a vehicle to transport it to the surface.	Mine operators should ensure the suitability of structural integrity and inspection programs for cylinder corrosion. Mine operators should advise workers that under no circumstances should they interfere with suspected leaking acetylene cylinders. In such situations they should evacuate the area and escalate the incident immediately.
Dangerous incident IncNot0045905 Open cut metals mine	A wedge failure occurred from about 114 m up a high wall with some material falling onto the main ramp. Most of the material was caught by the berms and broken up during the failure. About 2 tonnes of rock landed on the main pit	Mine operators should review the frequency of assessments of highwall stability and confirm appropriate triggers are included to increase frequency of

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p data-bbox="113 219 395 280">Ground or strata failure</p> 	<p data-bbox="403 219 1002 291">ramp with some hitting a grader. The grader operator was not injured.</p> <p data-bbox="403 309 1002 459">At the time of the event, the pit was closed to normal operations due to rainfall in the preceding 24 hours and was in the initial stages of being reopened to resume mining operations.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1010 219 1479 291">assessments arising from events such as rain events.</p> <p data-bbox="1010 309 1479 459">Mine operators should also ensure water egress is minimised to highwall crests to reduce the potential of a failure occurring.</p> <p data-bbox="1010 477 1479 600">Refer to Safety Bulletin: <u>SB20-01 Failure of highwalls, low walls and dumps.</u></p>
<p data-bbox="113 902 395 985">Dangerous incident IncNot0045907</p> <p data-bbox="113 1010 395 1160">Open cut coal Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p data-bbox="403 902 1002 1010">Two empty haul trucks turned in front of each other with the collision causing the headboard of one to damage the cabin of the other.</p> <p data-bbox="403 1028 1002 1099">One operator suffered hand fractures and a head laceration that required 52 stitches.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1010 902 1479 1010">This incident is under investigation and further information may be published later.</p> <p data-bbox="1010 1028 1479 1323">Following a recent awareness campaign on vehicle interactions the Regulator published a video that can be used for training purposes and toolbox talks. Mine operators are encouraged to use this resource. You can watch the video on <u>YouTube</u>.</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	<p>Resources Safety and Health Queensland has been made aware of allegedly counterfeit and grey market Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) hardware that may be being used at mines in Queensland. This puts the safety of Queensland mine workers at risk. PLCs are used for industrial automation. Systems at Queensland mines that may rely on PLC hardware include automated gas-monitoring systems and other critical automated processes. A PLC was disabled permanently at a Queensland mine by a firmware update due to a serial number mismatch. The manufacturer advised that the firmware identified the PLC as counterfeit.</p> <p>Key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Firmware updates and support may not be available for the supplied counterfeit PLC hardware.• Counterfeit products may become unexpectedly disabled if they are subjected to firmware updates.• - Legislation imposes obligations on coal mine operators, site senior executives, designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers of plant, contractors and others to ensure the risk to persons from the use of equipment is as low as reasonably achievable. <p><u>Details</u></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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Document control

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