

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 1 November 2024



This incident summary provides information on reportable incidents and safety advice for the NSW mining industry. To report an incident to the 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	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0047947 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas	A laden dump truck and a dozer collided while both were reversing on a dump. The offside rear corner of the dump truck dovetail collided with the left-hand, rear corner of the dozer. Both operators were uninjured in the incident.	Mine operators should continually assess the suitability of their collision avoidance controls before they lead to an incident. Operators should prioritise segregation between dozers and haul trucks on dumps over lower order controls such as positive communications and work procedures.
		

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p data-bbox="113 203 432 421">Dangerous incident IncNot0047934 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p data-bbox="432 203 1023 360">A water cart lost steering as it was negotiating a bend in the haul road. The water cart collided with a windrow while attempting an emergency stop.</p> <p data-bbox="432 371 1023 528">The failure was caused by low hydraulic oil level due to an undetected leak. The design did not include a low hydraulic oil reservoir level warning to alert the operator.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1023 203 1479 394">This incident highlights the importance of stringent monitoring and quality control of maintenance and repair activities.</p> <p data-bbox="1023 405 1479 595">After doing maintenance and repairing mobile plant, the plant should be inspected, tested and verified as fit-for-purpose before being returned to service.</p>
<p data-bbox="113 1290 432 1541">Dangerous incident IncNot0047938 Underground metals mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas</p> 	<p data-bbox="432 1290 1023 1514">A technician who was operating a light vehicle was rushing to arm barriers for a tele remote system and failed to park the vehicle correctly before exiting it. The vehicle immediately rolled backwards about 13 metres before hitting a wall.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1525 1023 1648">The technician had applied the handbrake but left the vehicle running, not in gear and not parked into the wall.</p> <p data-bbox="432 1659 1023 1783">During the incident, the technician ran to the vehicle and tried to re-enter the cabin, but it was moving too fast.</p>	<p data-bbox="1023 1290 1479 1671">When implementing controls for safe parking, mine operators should follow the hierarchy of controls. Engineering controls should be considered before resorting to lower level controls. Regardless of the engineering controls fitted, workers should always park fundamentally stable.</p> <p data-bbox="1023 1682 1479 1805">Under no circumstances should a worker ever attempt to re-enter a moving vehicle.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		

Other Resources Regulator publications

Investigation report: Worker seriously injured during lifting activity

A worker suffered a left leg compound fracture when a 32-kilogram steel lifting plate, attached to an overhead crane, hit him within a workshop at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine at Boggabri, NSW on 13 November 2022.

An uncontrolled release of stored energy generated during the operation of the crane caused this incident. The plate was released after it became caught on the edge of the blower housing cut-out during its removal from an axle box of a rigid dump truck. In the moments before the plate's release, the worker's head and body were positioned directly in the line of fire while attempting to manoeuvre the plate through the cut-out.

[Read the full report and recommendations](#)

Other publications of interest

The incidents are included for your review. The 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
	<p>International (other, non-fatal)</p>
<p>Safequarry UK</p>	<p>Quarry face collapses during drilling operation</p> <p>A drilling contractor was on site at a quarry and while drilling a row of holes, the face collapsed with about 100 tonne of material falling to the quarry floor. The drill rig and operator managed to get to a place of safety quickly and sufficient bunds were in place at the bottom of the face to contain all of the material that fell.</p> <p>Upon investigation, it was found that there was a seam of dark brittle material that when drilled caused a plane failure. This had been highlighted in the most recent geotechnical assessment and had been placed on a site-specific geotechnical action plan, but neither of these documents had been checked before the drilling began.</p> <p>Details</p>

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Publication	Issue/topic
	National (other, non-fatal)
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	Safety alert: Line of fire and exclusion zone failings <p>This year, the Queensland coal mining industry has suffered 4 fatalities and a number of serious accidents. Investigations are ongoing but it appears that in many cases, coal mine workers were in the line of fire from unplanned releases of energy sources and within areas where it would reasonably be expected for exclusion zones to apply, also known as no-go zones.</p> <p>Resources Safety & Health Queensland has identified an over-reliance on administrative controls (e.g. taking a simple step that appears to highlight an issue but does not remove the issue) in some cases. These provide a lower level of protection and are less reliable controls, instead of looking at safer ways to perform a task. It also appears that hazards and risks to individuals are not being identified.</p> <p>Details</p>
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	Safety bulletin: Managing the risks of storm season <p>Recent severe weather events worldwide have again highlighted the destructive potential of storms and call for a high level of preparedness. The likelihood of severe tropical cyclones is higher than average during the Australian cyclone season (November–April). Cyclones are not the only weather hazard in the Australian tropics. Tropical lows can also cause damaging winds, widespread rain and dangerous flooding.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site must ensure adequate resources, facilities and procedures are available before, during and after a storm.• The site's EMP covering these arrangements must be included in the safety and health management system, safety management system, or safety and security management system (system relevant to your site).• The EMP must be based on a risk assessment. <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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