Weekly incident summary

Week ending 9 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	38
Summarised incident total	4

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0047959 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion	A deputy discovered a collapsed return roller on a panel conveyor belt at an underground coal mine. The deputy stopped the belt, applied a fire extinguisher and isolated the area with a fire watch in place. A preliminary investigation was initiated, and the incident was reported to the Regulator. Immediate corrective actions included replacing damaged structure legs and rollers and conducting a full review of the conveyor risk assessments and fire management plan. Three days later, smoke and embers were detected on the conveyor directly outbye the earlier incident. This was caused by the belt making contact with a restrained grease line. The conveyor had	Risks and effective risk controls associated with conveyor systems are well known. Mine operators must ensure appropriate risk controls are implemented and maintained. Inspection systems should be designed to identify defects, with a strategy to address identified defects, i.e. with the use of a defect register/database. Wander switches should be commissioned to ensure this control measure will be effective during the operation of conveyors.

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	wandered beyond its intended path, with wander switches failing to trip. All belts were shut down, and a full inspection was ordered. The incident prompted a detailed audit of conveyor systems, investigation of wander switch functionality, and a review of installation procedures. 	
High potential incident IncNot0047989 Underground coal mine Fire or explosion 	Between 2.45pm and 6.10pm a real time sensor located between 1 and 2 cut through of the tailgate of longwall 207B detected greater than 2% methane with a peak reading of 2.18% at 4.12pm. The mining operation reported multiple methane exceedance recently in the past. These usually correlated with a fall of barometer or change in mining parameters.	Mines that have methane in-situ within their target coal seam should have appropriate ventilation control measures in place which address foreseeable hazards posed by falling barometers and variable production rates. Where inter-seam goaf connectivity is identified as a hazard relating to the ongoing management of residual methane gas, ventilation modelling must be conducted to identify and address reasonably foreseeable falls in barometric pressures, incorporating the planned production rates.
Dangerous incident IncNot0047992 Underground coal mine	Two load-haul-dump machines (LHDs) collided underground. The first LHD, heading outbye, stopped at 56 cut-through to allow another vehicle to shunt past. The second LHD, in third gear and carrying a concrete kibble, failed to	Mine workers must drive according to conditions (e.g. slow down) when carrying large loads that obstruct visibility with underground mining equipment.

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Roads or other vehicle operating areas	notice the parked LHD and collided into its rear. The scene was not preserved immediately. The operator of the first LHD, which was hit, experienced minor discomfort and was treated on site.	When operators are shunting, it is critical to ensure that mobile plant is safely positioned off the roadway when vehicles are passing.

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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