

# Weekly incident summary

## Week ending 10 January 2025


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	34
Summarised incident total	3

### Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0048321 Underground metals mine Inundation or inrush of any substance 	<p>There was an inrush of water from a 24-level ramp to a 25-level platform to below the knee level of a worker in the area.</p> <p>The water came from an old stopping area where excess dirt and material had been put in the drive and created a bund. Water built up behind the bund over a period of time and when a fall of ground occurred into the water, it created a pressure wave that broke through the bund.</p>	<p>Mine operators have a legislated duty to identify and manage the risks of inrush.</p> <p>The requirements of Section 48 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022, inrush hazards include implementing a system that ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying all reasonably foreseeable inrush hazards at the mine</li> <li>communicating the location of identified inrush hazards to all affected people</li> <li>determining whether or not an identified inrush hazard is a principal hazard.</li> </ul>

# Weekly incident summary week ending 10 January 2025

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p data-bbox="124 600 384 808">Dangerous incident IncNot0048320 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion</p> 	 <p data-bbox="416 600 922 707">A fire occurred at the rear of a load haul dump (LHD) while operating underground.</p> <p data-bbox="416 730 922 875">The operator noticed the fire and activated the fire suppression. He exited the machine and used a hand-held extinguisher to extinguish the fire.</p> <p data-bbox="416 898 922 1005">Smoke dissipated to return air with no impact elsewhere underground, and no withdrawal or refuge.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1028 922 1135">A hose at the back of the LHD near the radiator cooling fan had burst and sprayed fluid onto hot machine parts.</p> 	<p data-bbox="949 600 1455 786">Mine operators should ensure that risk control measures to prevent fires, and the escalation and response to underground fires, are implemented and remain effective.</p> <p data-bbox="949 808 1468 994">Inspection regimes, housekeeping standards and emergency response procedures should be routinely examined to ensure minimum standards are met or exceeded.</p> <p data-bbox="949 1016 1444 1124">Mine operators should ensure stringent monitoring and quality control of maintenance and repair activities.</p>

## Weekly incident summary week ending 10 January 2025

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0048355 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion	<p>A crew was undertaking planned rehabilitation work at old workings of a haulage shaft. The job involved installing bolts and mesh and grouting deteriorated areas with FrankenGrout.</p> <p>Underground workers reported smoke fumes entering the workings and withdrew to the refuge chambers. All workers were accounted for.</p> <p>It is believed that the fumes came from the grout.</p>	<p>This incident is under investigation and further information will be published at a later date.</p>



### 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
	International (other, non-fatal)
<b>MSHA</b>	<p><b>USA: Safety alert - Extended cuts with continuous mining machines</b></p> <p>On September 6, 2024, a continuous mining machine (CMM) operator died when roof rock fell and struck him while he worked under unsupported roof. At the time of the accident, the operator was repositioning the CMM after taking an extended cut through an intersection into the adjacent crosscut.</p> <p>Best practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never travel under unsupported roof.</li> <li>• Install reflectors, lights, and barricades to clearly identify the next to last full row of bolts to warn miners to not travel under unsupported roof.</li> <li>• Follow the extended cut requirements in the approved roof control plan and train miners on the plan.</li> <li>• Take extended cuts only in areas with competent roof conditions. Take shorter cuts when adverse roof conditions are encountered.</li> <li>• Install intersection support in accordance with the approved roof control plan.</li> <li>• Advance headings so they are flush across their width and fully supported. Until headings are flush across their width and fully supported, do not take additional cuts.</li> <li>• Do not position yourself along either side of the CMM while tramming.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p>

## Weekly incident summary week ending 10 January 2025

Publication	Issue/topic
MSHA	<p><b>USA: Safety alert - air lifting bags</b></p> <p>A locomotive operator was fatally injured when air lifting bags dislodged while miners were working to rerail a longwall electrical power car. The movement of the air lifting bags caused the power car drawbar to strike the locomotive operator.</p> <p>Best practices - Follow manufacturer instructions when using air lifting bags and train miners on these procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Place air lifting bags on firm support to ensure stability before inflation.</li><li>• When using multiple air lifting bags, use bags from the same manufacturer and of the same type, and never stack more than the recommended amount.</li><li>• Place a metal plate or fiberglass board between stacked air lifting bags to distribute the load evenly.</li><li>• Control inflation and deflation of air lifting bags from a safe distance with a controller and independent air hoses for each bag.</li><li>• Never exceed the specified working pressure or lifting capacity.</li><li>• Do not work under a load that is only supported by air lifting bags.</li><li>• Secure any components on the load to prevent unplanned movement.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Details</a></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.

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2025. You may copy, distribute, display, download and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2024 as the owner. However, you must obtain permission if you wish to charge others for access to the publication (other than at cost); include the publication in advertising or a product for sale; modify the publication; or republish the publication on a website. You may freely link to the publication on a departmental website.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2025) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2025), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.

Document control	
ISSN:	2982-1010 (online)
CM10 reference	RDOC25/3478
Mine safety reference	ISR25-02
Date published	17 January 2025
Authorised by	Deputy Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector