

Weekly incident summary

Week ending 14 February 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.

Туре	Number
Reportable incident total	41
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0048549 Underground metals mine Fire or explosion	A pile of pallets, vent bag, and poly pipe caught fire underground with no apparent ignition source. An operator pulled into the level, smelled smoke and realised that smoke was coming out of the drive. The shift supervisor initiated evacuation back to the refuge chambers for all underground workers. Workers in the refuge chambers on levels below the fire were evacuated after the fire was extinguished. Workers spent between 2.5 and 5 hours in refuge.	Fires underground have enormous capacity to result in multiple fatalities, which is why risk control measures to prevent fires are of utmost importance. Inspection regimes, housekeeping standards and emergency response procedures should be routinely examined to ensure minimum standards are met or exceeded. Piles of flammable materials should never be allowed to accumulate underground.

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Incident type

Comments to industry



Dangerous incident IncNot0048561 Open cut coal mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas



A haul truck operator approached a lefthand turn at an intersection at speed. The truck breached a centre bund and crossed onto the opposite side of the road.

No other road users were in the immediate vicinity of the truck at the intersection, however a vehicle was 100-150 metres away and the occupants witnessed the incident.



The incidence of truck operators driving at speed and not to the conditions is all too prevalent at mine sites.

Drivers are reminded that they have a legislative duty to care for their own health and safety and that of others (Section 28 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*). One of the duties is to cooperate with any reasonable policy or procedure. Failure to comply with a duty is an offence.

A Category 1 offence – *Gross negligence or reckless conduct* carries a potential imprisonment term of up to 10 years.

Engineering controls that minimise the risk of loss of control should be considered, including using speedlimiting devices, speed monitoring and alarms.

Wet weather training for new truck operators must be undertaken and the driver deemed competent before driving in wet conditions.

Mine operators should ensure that all truck operators have the requisite skills before they commence operating on site.

When road surfaces are degraded after rain, they must be remediated as a priority.

Dangerous incident IncNot0048564

Open cut coal mine

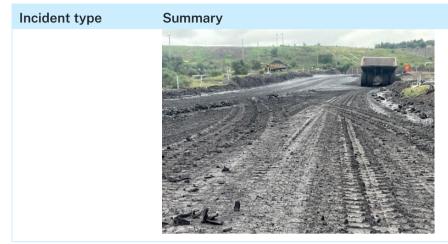
Roads or other vehicle operating areas



A new-to-industry trainee was operating a haul truck when the trainee felt a loss of traction.

The operator attempted to correct the loss of traction but oversteered and crossed the centreline of the road before correcting the steering sharply and stopping against a windrow.

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Comments to industry

Workers must operate vehicles at a speed that is appropriate to the prevailing conditions.

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 (fatal)	
MSHA	USA – Fatality, 22 August 2024 – fatal fall of face, rib, slide or highwall accident, final report On August 22, 2024, at 7:59 am, Brian Derby, a 67-year-old excavator operator with 3 years of mining experience, died after the excavator he was operating became engulfed in large rocks from a highwall failure.	
	The accident occurred because the mine operator did not:	
	1. take down or support hazardous ground conditions	
	2. use mining methods to maintain highwall stability	
	 designate people experienced in examining and testing for loose ground to conduct ground condition examinations 	
	4. conduct a workplace examination	
	develop and implement a written safety program for surface mobile equipment	
	Details	
	National (other, non-fatal)	
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	Report: Incident periodical for January 2025 – Coal Inspectorate This month's periodical looks at several high potential incidents that occurred during the last quarter: • pick and carry cranes • vehicle loss of control • fluid injection	
	 frictional ignition 	

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Publication	Issue/topic
	• underground bolter incidents.
	Details
Resources Safety & Health Queensland	 Safety alert: Failure to conduct effective post-blast inspections Routine inspections by RSHQ has revealed an issue with checking blast hole remnants after drilling at metalliferous mines. Potential misfires should be identified. RSHQ explosives inspectors continue to monitor mines to ensure that they are conducting thorough post-blast inspections.
	<u>Details</u>

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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