

# 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.

Type	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 	<p>A pile of pallets, vent bag, and poly pipe caught fire underground with no apparent ignition source.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Fires underground have enormous capacity to result in multiple fatalities, which is why risk control measures to prevent fires are of utmost importance.</p> <p>Inspection regimes, housekeeping standards and emergency response procedures should be routinely examined to ensure minimum standards are met or exceeded.</p> <p>Piles of flammable materials should never be allowed to accumulate underground.</p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
<p data-bbox="124 616 368 862">           Dangerous incident            IncNot0048561            Open cut coal mine            Roads or other            vehicle operating            areas         </p> 	 <p data-bbox="411 616 946 929">           A haul truck operator approached a left-hand 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.         </p> 	<p data-bbox="986 616 1457 763">           The incidence of truck operators driving at speed and not to the conditions is all too prevalent at mine sites.         </p> <p data-bbox="986 786 1457 1077">           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 <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>). One of the duties is to cooperate with any reasonable policy or procedure. Failure to comply with a duty is an offence.         </p> <p data-bbox="986 1099 1457 1247">           A Category 1 offence – <i>Gross negligence or reckless conduct</i> carries a potential imprisonment term of up to 10 years.         </p> <p data-bbox="986 1270 1457 1449">           Engineering controls that minimise the risk of loss of control should be considered, including using speed-limiting devices, speed monitoring and alarms.         </p>
<p data-bbox="124 1480 368 1727">           Dangerous incident            IncNot0048564            Open cut coal mine            Roads or other            vehicle operating            areas         </p> 	<p data-bbox="411 1480 946 1592">           A new-to-industry trainee was operating a haul truck when the trainee felt a loss of traction.         </p> <p data-bbox="411 1615 946 1794">           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.         </p>	<p data-bbox="986 1480 1457 1628">           Wet weather training for new truck operators must be undertaken and the driver deemed competent before driving in wet conditions.         </p> <p data-bbox="986 1650 1457 1798">           Mine operators should ensure that all truck operators have the requisite skills before they commence operating on site.         </p> <p data-bbox="986 1821 1457 1933">           When road surfaces are degraded after rain, they must be remediated as a priority.         </p>

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
		<p>Workers must operate vehicles at a speed that is appropriate to the prevailing conditions.</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
<p>MSHA</p>	<p><b>International (fatal)</b></p> <p><b>USA – Fatality, 22 August 2024 – fatal fall of face, rib, slide or highwall accident, final report</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The accident occurred because the mine operator did not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. take down or support hazardous ground conditions</li> <li>2. use mining methods to maintain highwall stability</li> <li>3. designate people experienced in examining and testing for loose ground to conduct ground condition examinations</li> <li>4. conduct a workplace examination</li> <li>5. develop and implement a written safety program for surface mobile equipment</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p>
<p><b>Resources Safety &amp; Health Queensland</b></p>	<p><b>National (other, non-fatal)</b></p> <p>Report: Incident periodical for January 2025 – Coal Inspectorate</p> <p>This month’s periodical looks at several high potential incidents that occurred during the last quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pick and carry cranes</li> <li>• vehicle loss of control</li> <li>• fluid injection</li> <li>• frictional ignition</li> </ul>

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Publication	Issue/topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• underground bolter incidents.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">Details</a></p>
<b>Resources Safety &amp; Health Queensland</b>	<p>Safety alert: Failure to conduct effective post-blast inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Routine inspections by RSHQ has revealed an issue with checking blast hole remnants after drilling at metalliferous mines.</li><li>• Potential misfires should be identified.</li><li>• RSHQ explosives inspectors continue to monitor mines to ensure that they are conducting thorough post-blast inspections.</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.

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