Weekly incident summary

Week ending 21 March 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	51
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0048782 Underground metals mine Roads or other vehicle operating areas 	A light vehicle operator was travelling on a haul road when they lost control of the vehicle and rolled it onto its left side. The driver was the single occupant in the vehicle. The road was flat and straight and was watered to the mine's standard at the time. The vehicle had worn tyres, which contributed to the loss of traction. 	Multiple incidents of this nature have been notified recently. Mine operators should communicate this with workers and reinforce relevant controls. Tyre condition is crucial to maintaining stability on wet roads. When operators report defects or concerns, thorough inspections should be conducted to ensure vehicles are safe to operate. Where vehicles are found not to be safe to operate they are to be removed from service until repaired. Engineering controls that minimise the risk of loss of control should be considered, including using speed-limiting devices, speed monitoring and alarms.

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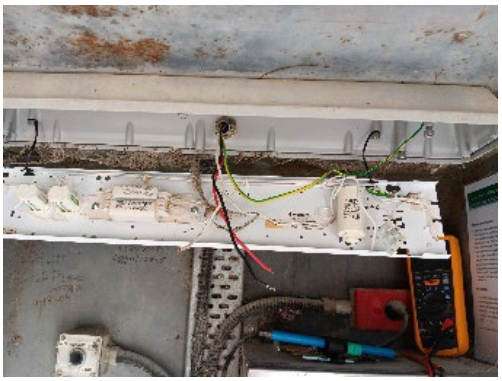
Dangerous Incident IncNot0048795 Industrial minerals	A fourth year electrician suffered an electric shock while changing a fluorescent light. The light circuit was isolated and tested under supervision before the work began. The apprentice was exposed to a live circuit within the casing when changing the light. There were 2 power sources to the light fitting from 2 separate circuit breakers. Drawings for the electrical installation were not up to date. 	Mine operators must ensure that fit-for-purpose electrical installations are maintained in a state without risk to workers. The Resources Regulator is concerned with a recent trend of electrical apprentices suffering shocks. Mine operators should have robust systems in place for supervising at-risk workers such as apprentices. At a minimum, mine operators should ensure that: • circuit board diagrams are up to date • redundant equipment is removed • circuit breakers are the correct sizes • the purpose of each circuit breaker is clearly identified with labels • there are no loose terminations • all supervisors can identify the skills and training levels of apprentices to ensure safe task allocation and supervision levels. For further information read the safety bulletin: SB20-03 Electric shocks in the mining industry

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Dangerous Incident IncNot0048757 Construction materials Fire or explosion 	An electrical fire occurred in an operator's cabin of a loader. The operator reported seeing flames within the cabin and he extinguished the fire with fire extinguishers. The fire brigade arrived at the incident scene and called an ambulance to check on the operator. He was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.	Mine operators should have procedures in place that clearly outline workers' responsibilities in the event of mobile plant fires. Operators should also convey to workers that their health and safety is paramount and in no circumstances should a worker put themselves in danger while attempting to control a fire on mobile plant.

Other Resources Regulator publications

Safety Bulletin SB25-02 Underground vehicle interaction with high voltage cables puts mine workers at risk

A recent series of incidents involving collision between underground mobile plant and high voltage (HV) 11 kilo Volt (kV) power cables have been reported to the Resources Regulator, raising concerns about putting workers at risk of injury.

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.

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Publication	Issue/topic
	International (fatal)
MSHA	**USA – Fatality, 22 August 2024 Fatal slip or fall of person** On August 22, 2024, at 3:45 pm, Joel Diaz-Estrada, a 32-year-old contract miner for Crisp Industries LLC with about 2 years of mining experience, was fatally injured when he fell through an opening in a walkway platform. Mr Estrada died from his injuries on September 6, 2024. The accident occurred because the contractor did not: • conduct workplace examinations • ensure the miner properly wore a safety belt line when there was a danger of falling. Details
MSHA	**USA – Fatality, 28 September 2024 – Fatal machinery incident** On September 28, 2024, at 7:50 am, Colton Walls, a 34-year-old electrician with 14 years of mining experience, was seriously injured while advancing longwall shields. Two longwall shields were connected with a nylon rope and hook sling. When the sling broke, a portion of the sling hit Mr Walls. He died from his injuries on October 5, 2024. The accident occurred because the mine operator did not: • have adequate written guidance to ensure the safe advancement of the longwall shields when adverse conditions were encountered and connecting devices were used to prevent the shields from leaning. • train the miner on how to ensure safe advancement of the longwall shields when adverse conditions occur and connecting devices are used to prevent the shields from leaning. Details

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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