

REPORTABLE INCIDENTS | WHS MINES LEGISLATION

Weekly incident summary

11 May 2016

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 and summarised in this report. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our [Annual Performance Measures Reports](#).

Reportable incidents total

Level 1 incidents	Level 2 incidents	Level 3 incidents
36	7	0

Note: Incidents are categorised as Level 1, 2 or 3 according to the seriousness of the incident, with 3 being the most serious.

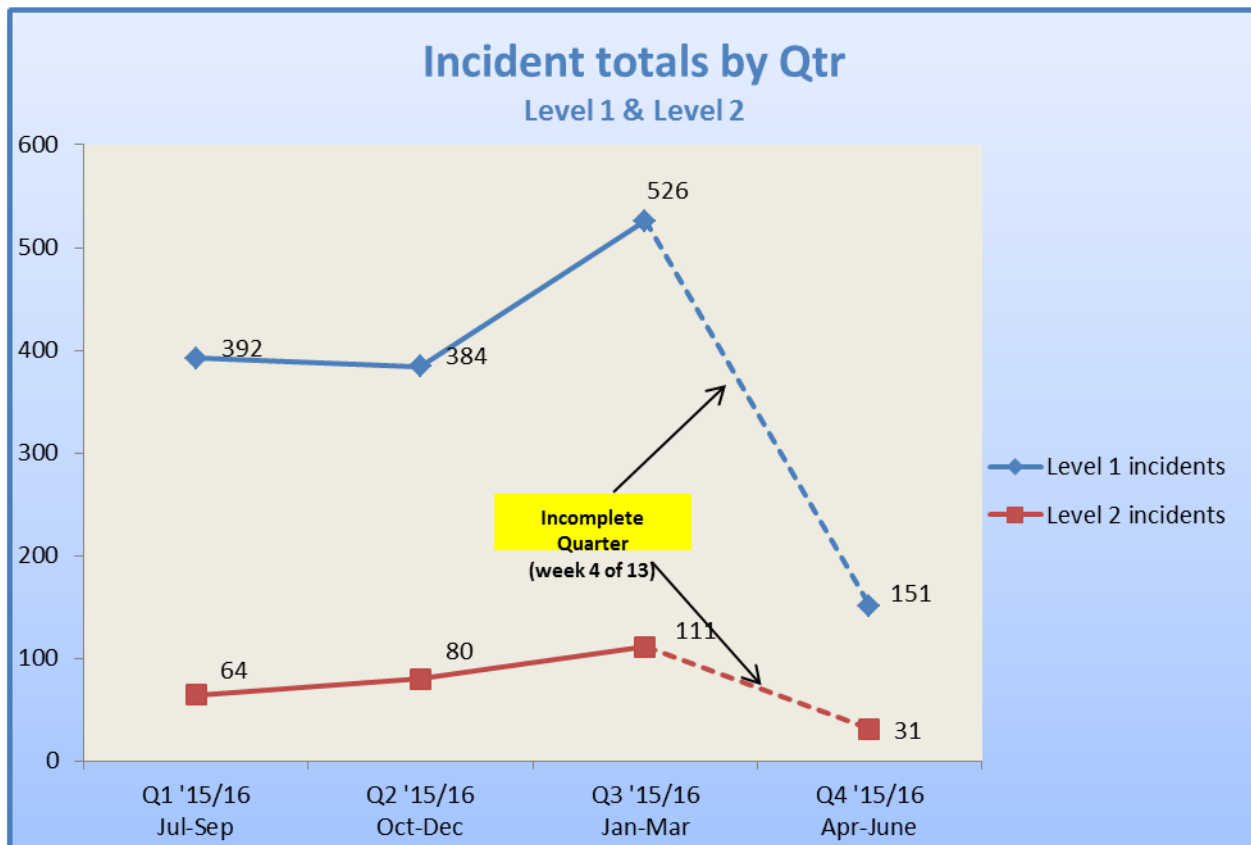
Injuries	Fatalities
11	0

Reportable incidents overview

Note: While all incidents are investigated, generally only level 2 and 3 incidents are summarised below.

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	Electrical energy	Issues with emergency stop buttons on drill rigs, not 'explosion protected'.	Mines should ensure that detailed inspections of explosion protected electrical plant include verifying the correct retention of push button and rotating switch operators.
2	Explosives (complaint)	A complaint was received from an adjoining landholder when the blast at a quarry was not notified to the landholder as per protocol. The need to notify was not communicated to a new staff member with responsibility for doing so.	Mine operators should ensure policies and procedures for blasting are developed and followed which may include the prior notification of blasting activities with adjoining or affected landholders. New staff members should be fully briefed on roles and responsibilities associated with implementation of safety systems.
2	Work environment	The lifting point on a 1.5t concrete calibration weight failed while being transported. It was not included in the mine's program for inspecting lifting equipment.	The mine operator must ensure all lifting equipment and attachments are regularly inspected and tagged. An effective record system must be maintained.

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	Explosives	Pre-split development shot was unable to be let off due to initiator failure. Shot was slept overnight.	<p>Mines should ensure the explosives handling conforms with <i>AS 2187.2-2006 Explosives - Storage and use - Use of explosives</i> recommendations and a thorough risk assessment is conducted prior to blasting activities.</p> <p>Mines should ensure security of explosives conforms with the Explosives Act 2003 and Explosives Regulation 2013.</p> <p>Shotfirers must have direct control over the explosives and they must keep adequate records.</p>
2	Work environment	Dozer operator preparing drill prep at base of shot, ripping and pushing sandstone rock material. The operator stated he was operating very slowly in low gear and was in the process of reversing, when the dozer came down hard on a rock, jarring him heavily and causing immediate pain to his hip/pelvis area.	Mine operators should ensure seat belts are installed and operators are wearing them at all times whilst operating machinery.
2	Mechanical equipment	A fitter was operating a bolting rig and was in the process of putting the bolt in and raising it when the bolt caught on the roof. The bolt flexed out under thrust and pinched his finger between the bolt and the hose manifold on the rig. The fitter had the top of his finger nipped off.	Mines should review their operational risk assessments on bolting operations with particular focus on human factors.
2	Work environment	A laboratory technician was exposed to fumes/gases and suffered respiratory distress. A laboratory instrument using an open flame for analysis of gold was not correctly located under the ventilation hood. An associated chemical monitor near the instrument was not working.	Mechanical ventilation is a primary control to manage the hazards of fumes mists and dust in laboratories. Mechanical ventilation is only effective when used in accordance with design criteria and maintained in good working order. Chemical monitoring devices must also be regularly maintained, inspected and tested to ensure the safety of workers.



Recent incident publications

Type	Identifier	Title	Date published
Safety bulletin	SB16-02	Exploding lead acid batteries	10 May 2016

You can find all our incident related publications (i.e. safety alerts, safety bulletins, incident information releases, weekly incident summaries and investigation reports) on our [website](#).

Further information

Should you wish to seek further information, please contact one of our offices:

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2016). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development or the user's independent advisor.