

REPORTABLE INCIDENTS | WHS MINES LEGISLATION

Weekly incident summary

10 August 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. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our [Annual Performance Measures Reports](#).

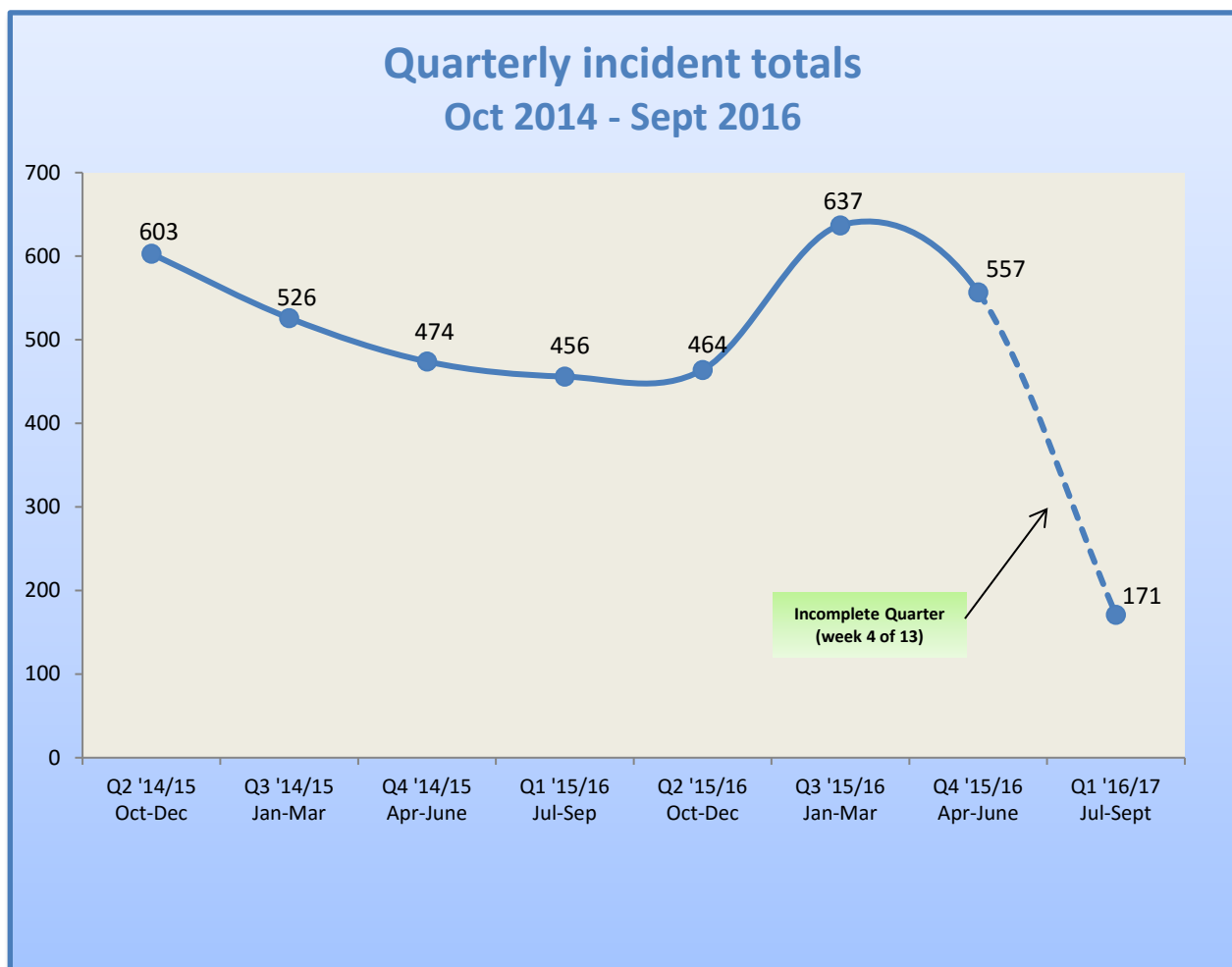
To report an incident call **1300 814 609** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Reportable incidents total: 48 Summarised Incidents: 7

Summarised Incidents – incidents of note for which operators should consider the comments provided and determine if action needs to be taken.

Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
102 (iii) (c) Explosives Act SinNot 2016/0157	Damage to pyromex boosters as a result of a light vehicle running over them while accessing blast exclusion zone.	Mine should ensure procedures regarding blast exclusion zone include specific detail on restrictions of vehicle movements within these zones, and that relevant personnel are trained in the use of these procedures
Complaint SinNot 2016/0141	A resident claims that a blast occurred in a quarry without prior notification. The resident did not hear the pre-blast siren.	Mine operators should ensure that effective notification, communication and warning systems are in place to ensure members of the general public are informed of intended blasts.
Dangerous Incident SinNot2016/0159	Workers who were sent to a tailgate roadway to install secondary roof support found that the roof had already fallen.	Mines should review the critical controls in their strata failure management plan so as to identify and quickly respond to any area of concern. Some mines have implemented a strata defect system including TARPs, which mandate timely response which is considered very good practice and has reduced the incidence of roof falls at these operations.
Complaint SinNot 2016/0151	A complaint in relation to an incident that occurred at a mine over two years ago and was not reported to the regulator. Incident involved an unplanned movement of a vehicle that rolled away after the operator alighted from the vehicle. Vehicle was damaged and later removed from site.	The complaint is being investigated by the Resource Regulator. Mine operators should make themselves aware of all legislative reporting requirements.

Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
Explosives SinNot 2016/0149	Report to mine operator that explosives may have been left in abandoned underground mine workings. Mine was access by shafts approximately 40 metres deep and has not been worked for over 20 years. Open cut activities are now taking place in proximity to the old underground workings. Explosive consultant engaged to assess hazards from potential old explosives.	When mine operators are informed of unexpected potential hazards a detailed investigation including a risk assessment should be undertaken to identify and control the potential risks to the current operation.
Dangerous Incident SinNot2016/0148	Three workers entered an exclusion zone above a trial underground hydraulic mining area at a mineral sands operation. A small sinkhole around 400mm in diameter appeared in the ground surface near the workers. The workers left the scene immediately. The sinkhole area was inspected by a drone and had subsequently increased in size to 3m diameter and 2m deep.	Operators must ensure that adequate subsidence exclusions zones are established, properly signed, communicated and enforced. This should occur prior to potential development of cracking or sinkholes that may lead to exposure to a subsidence hazard.



Recent incident publications

No recent incident notifications.

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:

COAL (NORTH) and EAST METEX

Maitland

NSW Department of Industry
Mineral Resources
516 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320
(PO Box 344, Hunter Region MC
NSW 2310)
T 1300 736 122 or 02 4931 6666
F 02 4931 6790
E mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au

COAL (SOUTH)

Wollongong

NSW Department of Industry
State Government Offices
Level 3, Block F, 84 Crown Street,
Wollongong NSW 2500
(PO Box 674, Wollongong NSW 2520)
T 02 4222 8333
F 02 4226 3851

WEST METEX

Orange

NSW Department of Industry
161 Kite Street, Orange NSW 2800
(Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800)
T 02 6360 5333
F 02 6360 5363
After hours – emergency only 02 6360 5343

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (August 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.