

WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 29 January 2021

This incident summary provides information on reportable incidents and safety advice for the NSW mining industry. To report an incident to the NSW 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	30
Summarised incident total	5

Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	COMMENTS TO INDUSTRY
Dangerous incident IncNot0039090 Underground metal mine  Roads or other vehicle operating areas	A water truck lost control on a ramp and rolled over. The driver sustained minor injuries. Preliminary findings suggest that the brakes failed and the driver, who was not qualified to drive a water truck, was unable to bring the truck to a stop. 	Mine operators must have documented life-cycle maintenance strategies for plant and ensure that maintenance is undertaken in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Workers must not operate plant without training and must be assessed as competent to operate that specific plant. Pre-start assessments must be carried out prior to operating mobile plant.

Dangerous incident
IncNot0039098
Open cut coal mine

When blasting overburden, fly rock has been ejected beyond the exclusion zone and into an area where mining plant was operating.
No one was injured.



The Resources Regulator published an investigation report in August 2020 following a dangerous blasting incident. Refer to: [Investigation Report – Dangerous Blasting Incident](#)
Mine operators are reminded that appropriate systems must be in place to review and audit the explosives control plan and blasting work practices, to ensure that exclusion zone requirements are adequate.
Persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) should be aware of clauses 26 and 31 and Schedule 2 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014.

Dangerous incident
IncNot0039102
Underground
metal mine

A jumbo that was parked on the start of a decline has been hit in the rear by a loader bucket. The operator of the jumbo was at the front of the machine at the time of the collision. No one was injured.



Roads or other
vehicle operating
areas



A safety alert will be published for this incident.
Operators should ensure that all safety devices, such as beacons, are present and operating when undertaking a pre-start assessment and take the necessary action to remedy any faults.
Operators should also assess risks that may arise from their actions. When parking a vehicle, the operator should maintain situational awareness. If it is necessary to park in a position that increases the risk of a collision, positive communications and/or other risk controls, such as signs, should be used to minimise the risk.

Dangerous incident
IncNot0039117
Underground
metal mine

A maintenance hoist that was loaded with a light vehicle had a rope failure that caused the hoist to drop on one side.
No one was injured.

This incident is under investigation and further information may be published at a later date.



Mine operators are reminded that hoist ropes should be regularly inspected and the triggers for rope replacement should be determined according to the task, the rating of the ropes and the risk associated with rope failure.

Dangerous incident
IncNot0039120
Open cut coal mine

A worker was struck in the face by a metal spreader bar while in the process of reconnecting the chain on a feeder breaker. Another worker applied a small amount of pressure to a 30T ram, applying a compressive force to the spreader bar before the injured worker had moved to a safe standing zone.

Workers should ensure they use fit-for-purpose equipment when undertaking tasks. Safe standing zones should be determined where hydraulic pressure is being applied to objects and there is a potential for unintended movement or equipment failure. Workers should communicate their intentions clearly and ensure that their actions don't put others in a position of danger.



Other publications of interest

The incidents are included for your review. The NSW 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	<p>Mine fatality– On 16 January 2021, a mine worker was fatally injured while using a tool to remove a down-the-hole hammer. The drill motor turned unexpectedly, pinning the worker's leg between the tool and the drill mast.</p> <p>Details</p>

National (other, non-fatal)

**Resources Safety
and Health,
Queensland
(Coal)**

Explosion inside truck cabin from AC system – Safety Alert #384

On 11 January 2021, a serious accident occurred while a mine worker was driving a truck in an underground mine. There was an explosion in the truck cabin causing serious burns to the worker’s face, hands and chest. Fortunately, the worker’s eyes were protected from the blast by safety glasses.

[Details](#)

**Resources Safety
and Health,
Queensland
(Mineral mines
and quarries)**

High potential incident summary – November 2020

[Details](#)

**Resources Safety
and Health,
Queensland
(Coal)**

High potential incident summary – December 2020

[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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Mine safety reference

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