Weekly incident summary

Week ending 15 March 2024

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	63
Summarised incident total	3

Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Serious injury IncNot0046499 Underground metals	An agitator operator sustained a laceration to his left thumb that resulted in partial amputation. The operator was pushing material into the rear of the agitator bowl when his thumb was caught by the rotating fin. 	All mines must have a system where workers isolate equipment before working near rotating parts. Workers have a legislative duty to care for their own health and safety and that of others (Section 28 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*). One of the duties is to cooperate with any reasonable policy or procedure. Failure to comply with a duty is an offence and penalties apply. Entanglement between moving parts is a foreseeable risk. Mine operators must identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety associated with the operation, maintenance and cleaning of plant.

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Incident type	Summary	Comments to industry
Dangerous incident IncNot0046525 Underground metals	A sulphide dust explosion occurred underground after a heading was fired. Approximately 70 metres of ventilation bag was either blown down or melted. 	Mine operators should manage risks to health and safety arising from combustible dust. In the presence of an ignition source, sulphide dust, when at the right concentration, can ignite and/or explode uncontrollably. Mine operators should: • identify geological settings likely to contain sulphides and other combustible dusts • identify processes that generate dust • identify sources of ignition • prepare combustible dust hazard maps • develop and implement processes or procedures to communicate combustible dust risk in a timely manner, and to manage risk effectively • identify, implement and monitor the effectiveness of the risk control measures. • Procedures should be developed for re-entry into the mine, this should include controls for the exposure of workers to potentially hazardous atmospheres.
Dangerous incident IncNot0046529 Underground metals Ground or strata failure	After firing a draw point to shake the ore down, approximately 70 linear metres of clay type material flowed down the drive. It appears that the shockwave of the percussion blast caused the clay material in the old block cave to liquefy and push down the drive. There was nobody in the mine when the blast took place.	Mine operators must assess the risk of inrush and inundation. When the risk exists, a principal hazard management plan must be in place. When developing the control measures to manage the risks of inundation or inrush of any substance, mine operators must consider: • the failure or blocking of the flow channels • the potential for the accumulation of water, gas or other substances, or materials that could liquefy or flow into other workings or locations.

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	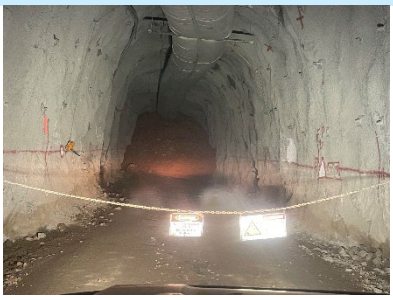	Refer to the code of practice: Inundation and inrush hazard management

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
US Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)	International (fatal) Fatality alert - 'Powered Haulage' On January 29, 2024, a miner died when his haul truck travelled over the edge of a stockpile and overturned. Best practices: • Examine dumping locations before work begins to identify hazardous conditions, especially after heavy rain, or other significant weather changes. • Always wear a seatbelt. • Provide adequate illumination at dumping locations. • Ensure dumping locations are properly designed, constructed, and maintained. • Dump material at a safe distance from the edge and push the material over the edge with a bulldozer. • Construct substantial berms as a visual indicator to prevent overtravel at dumping locations. Clearly mark dumping locations with reflectors and/or markers. • Do not remove material from the toe of stockpiles when it would create instability at dumping locations. Read more

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.

Document control	
CM9 reference	DOC24/53734
Mine safety reference	ISR24-11
Date published	22 March 2024
Authorised by	Director Technical Operations Mine Safety Office of the Chief Inspector