

WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 6 March 2020



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	49
Summarised incident total	4

Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATIONS TO INDUSTRY
<p>Dangerous incident IncNot0036840 Open cut coal mine</p>  <p>Fire or explosion</p>	<p>A dozer driver noticed an oil leak and smoke coming from the front of the machine. Flames were coming from the engine bay. The driver manually activated the fire suppression system but it did not fully extinguish the fire. The driver used a fire extinguisher to fully extinguish the fire.</p> 	<p>The cause of this fire has not yet been established. For further information refer to our dedicated website page about fires on mobile plant Also see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fires-on-mobile-plant-position-paper-October-2019.

Dangerous incident

IncNot0036843

Open cut coal mine



Fire or explosion

A dozer driver was pushing material when a glow was noticed at the front of the machine. At the same time, a truck called in an emergency. The driver immediately reversed and saw flames. The operator manually activated the fire suppression system.



The cause of this fire has not yet been established.

For further information refer to our dedicated website page about [fires on mobile plant](#)

Also see:

- [Fires-on-mobile-plant-position-paper-October-2019.](#)

Dangerous incident

IncNot0036845

Underground coal mine



Roads or other vehicle operating areas

A personnel transporter was travelling outbye with two occupants. As it left a dogleg section of the roadway, the steering pulled hard to the right. The operator braked and stopped. As the transporter slowed, it hit a fire hydrant dropper that penetrated the driver's side windscreen. No-one was injured. A preliminary mine investigation found a loose steering hose had allowed hydraulic oil to leak out – this left no hydraulic oil to provide the steering function.



Mine operators must develop and adhere to strict inspection and maintenance standards and practices to prevent loss of fluid due to loose fittings or damaged hoses.

Operators should review their maintenance procedures to ensure commissioning checks are carried out by competent people before plant is returned to service as fit-for-purpose.

High potential incident

IncNot0036890

Open cut coal mine



Ground or strata failure

Localised cracking has occurred on a public road adjacent to a highwall at an open cut coal mine.

The mine notified the local council of the issue, and consequently the road was closed to the public.

The mine had identified minor deterioration of the highwall a number of weeks prior to the cracking first being identified, and had commenced stabilisation and remedial works.

Regulator inspectors attended the mine site and assessed the extent of the road cracks and the highwall deterioration, as well as the remedial works and monitoring implemented by the mine.



This situation is the subject of ongoing monitoring by the NSW Resources Regulator.

Mine operators are reminded that when developing the control measures to manage the risks of ground or strata failure, consideration must be given to:

- the means by which water may enter the mine, and the procedures for removing water from the mine and how those procedures influence rock stability over time
- the geotechnical characteristics of the rocks and soil, including the effects of water on rock support and stability.

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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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2020). 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 Planning and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Approved by	Chief Inspector Office of the Chief Inspector
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