

# WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 3 January 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	89 (from 13 December 2019)
Summarised incident total	3

## Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATIONS TO INDUSTRY
Dangerous incident IncNot0036395	<p>A metalliferous mine was recovering a buried load haul dump machine (LHD) from a stope using a second LHD under tele-remote control when a fall of ground occurred in the recovery drive that resulted in the recovery LHD being buried. The fall of supported ground was about 2000 tonnes of material.</p> <p>No workers were in the vicinity when the fall occurred.</p> <p>Investigations at the time of writing suggest the fall may have been related to shotfiring, which occurred about two hours earlier in a stope two levels below where the fall occurred.</p>	<p>When undertaking change management relating to an alteration in mining process or sequencing, mine operators should complete a full geological assessment to determine whether the proposed change increases the level of risk, or introduces new risks.</p>



Dangerous incident  
IncNot0036385

At an underground metalliferous mine, a Jumbo operator saw smoke while traversing the decline, but was unable to identify the cause. The operator initiated emergency procedures and the area was evacuated. Workers went to refuge chambers in accordance with procedures.

All workers were accounted for within the refuge chambers. The mines rescue team was deployed to access the Jumbo and found that a lubrication fluid container that had been stored on the machine had melted, which was the causing the smoke.



If it is essential to store containers of combustible fluids on mobile equipment, this should be in a location where they are adequately secured, not subject to excess heat, and there is no possibility of either the containers or leaking fluid making contact with hot surfaces.

Plastic containers should be avoided wherever possible.

At the completion of maintenance activities, equipment should always be thoroughly inspected to ensure all excess material has been removed including combustible materials, cleaning materials, hydrocarbons and tools.

Dangerous incident  
IncNot0036363

A rock fall at an underground metalliferous mine trapped a loader and a light vehicle with a worker inside the vehicle. The worker first heard, then saw the fall of ground about five to 10 metres away. The worker reported the fall and exited the level via the escape ladder

When developing strata TARPs and support plans, mine operators must consider the predicted stress regime of the surrounding strata through the full lifecycle of a driven roadway.

behind where the vehicle was parked. Neither of the machines were damaged.



This incident shows the importance of mine operators establishing and maintaining secondary escapeways.

**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 (January 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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**Mine safety reference** ISR20-01

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**Approved by** Chief Inspector  
Office of the Chief Inspector