

Fatality

Incident date: 17 October 2018

Event: Non-work-related death at an open cut coal mine

Location: Wilpinjong Coal Mine, Wilpinjong NSW

Overview

A worker collapsed in the administration lunch room of the mine. Other workers responded immediately and began emergency procedures. The worker was unresponsive and died despite the efforts of his co-workers and ambulance officers to resuscitate him.

The mine

Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd is the mine operator of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. The mine is an operation of Peabody and is on Ulan-Wollar Road, Wilpinjong, near the rural village of Wollar in the western coalfields. Wilpinjong Coal Mine is 48 kilometres north-east of Mudgee, NSW.

Wilpinjong Coal Mine comprises of an open cut and coal handling preparation plant. The open cut is a bulk dozer, truck and shovel operation that produces high quality thermal coal for domestic and export markets.

The incident

A worker, 48, collapsed in the administration lunch room of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine at 4pm on 17 October 2018. The worker entered the crib room for his second meal break of the shift. He had been operating a rear dump truck at the mine, carting reject material from the coal handling and preparation plant reject bin to an emplacement area.

Other workers immediately went to his aid, performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and fitting a defibrillator until NSW Ambulance paramedics arrived. Paramedics continued first aid but were unable to resuscitate him.

Investigation outcome

The NSW Resources Regulator has conducted an investigation into the circumstances of the worker's death. As a result of the information obtained during the investigation, the Resources Regulator does not consider the worker's death to be work-related.

Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulations.

Mine operators should have effective health monitoring programs in place to ensure workers are healthy and fit to work at mining operations and in mine environments. Regular medical examinations should be undertaken by qualified medical practitioners.

Persons conducting a business or undertaking should provide information to workers about healthy lifestyles and fitness-for-work programs.

Workers should maintain a healthy lifestyle and be fit to undertake the work they perform.

Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- Health management: [Health management overview](#)
- Health control plan fact sheet: [Effective controls to ensure fitness for work](#)

About this information release

The Resources Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a death in the mining industry. The investigation has been finalised.

Go to www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au to:

- learn more about our work on major investigations and emergency response
- view our publications on other major investigations
- find your local mine safety office, where you can contact our team of mine safety inspectors.

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