

# WEEKLY INCIDENT SUMMARY

Week ending Friday 24 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	33
Summarised incident total	5

## Summarised incidents

INCIDENT TYPE	SUMMARY	RECOMMENDATIONS TO INDUSTRY
Serious injury IncNot0036563 Mine processing plant	<p>A worker was cleaning within a lime hydration plant when he ingested hydrated lime. The mine's early investigation found that the worker caused hydrated lime to become airborne and he inhaled the substance.</p> <p>The worker was taken to hospital, where it was confirmed he had suffered a corrosive throat injury.</p>	<p>Mine operators are reminded that they must provide and maintain safe systems of work.</p> <p>Workers are reminded that correct personal protection equipment (PPE) must be worn in areas designated by the mine operator. Respiratory protective equipment is the last line of defence in the control of airborne dust inhalation.</p>



Dangerous  
incident  
IncNot0036553  
Quarry

A dump truck operator smelled fuel during mining operations. The operator drove the truck to where a maintenance fitter was located, before parking the machine. The fitter saw smoke and attempted to put the fire out with an extinguisher. A water cart attended and extinguished the fire.

A mine investigation identified there was fuel near the turbo, and a fuel line was damaged. It was also identified that there was no fire suppression system fitted to the truck.



Mine operators must remind machine operators that they are to stop and call for assistance when they identify any abnormal conditions such as smelling fuel or smoke.

Fires on mobile plant are a known risk to workers and this risk is preventable.

MDG 15 recommends that designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers should undertake an assessment of all fire risks.

- For further information read: [MDG15 Guideline for mobile and transportable plant for use at mines](#)
- [Fires-on-Mobile-Plant-Position-Paper-October-2019.pdf](#)

Dangerous incident  
IncNot0036555  
Coal preparation plant

An electrician was in the process of replacing a faded out-of-service tag on a disconnected 415-volt lighting cable when he suffered an electric shock. The electrician was treated following the mine's site protocol.

The mine investigation identified that the circuit was still energised and had not been correctly isolated at the supply source.

Coal operators should review the adequacy and reliability of the risk controls that are implemented at their sites to prevent electric shocks.

Electricians are reminded to prove that the circuit is dead before making any contact with it.



Dangerous incident  
IncNot0036558  
Underground metalliferous mine

During mining operations, a haul truck operator saw smoke, and then flames. He parked the truck and activated the fire suppression system. With the help of another two workers, they extinguished the fire with hand-held extinguishers. The fire was in the engine bay and articulation point of the truck.

The mine investigation identified the cause of the fire as a failure of a driveline bearing. The truck had recently returned from a transmission rebuild.

Following maintenance and repairs to mobile plant, the plant should be inspected, tested and verified as fit-for-purpose.

Mobile plant should have suitable maintenance schedules that take into consideration condition and hours of operation.



Dangerous incident  
IncNot0036556  
Underground coal mine

A worker suffered an electric shock while holding the hand rail of a continuous miner and making contact with a rib bolt. The worker was treated following the mine’s electric shock protocol. The mine’s investigation was unable to identify the cause of the shock. The miner cables were sent for further testing.

The electrical engineering control plan for a mine must set out the control measures to manage risks to health and safety from electricity at each mine. Reeling or trailing cables used in hazardous zones must comply with the requirements of Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation.

## Other publications of interest

These 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
	<b>International (fatal)</b>
MSHA	<b>Metal/non-metal mine fatality (final report)</b> While spotting for a dump truck, a contractor stepped directly into the path of a bulldozer and died at the scene. The incident occurred on November 16, 2019.

[Details](#)

MSHA

**Metal/non-metal mine fatality (final report)**

A miner fell into a portable load-out bin on January 8, 2020 and died at the scene.

[Details](#)

**National (fatal)**

Safework NSW

**Telehandler fatality**

A 24-year-old man was killed near Gundagai after being hit by the boom of a telehandler, while riding outside of the cabin.

[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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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**

**CM9 reference** DOC20/62572

**Mine safety reference** ISR20-04

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