

## REPORTABLE INCIDENTS | WHS MINES LEGISLATION

# Weekly incident summary

**Published 24 February 2016**

*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 and summarised in this report. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our [Annual Performance Measures Reports](#).*

## Reportable incidents total

Level 1 incidents	Level 2 incidents	Level 3 incidents
39	13	0

*Note: Incidents are categorised as Level 1, 2 or 3 according to the seriousness of the incident, with 3 being the most serious.*

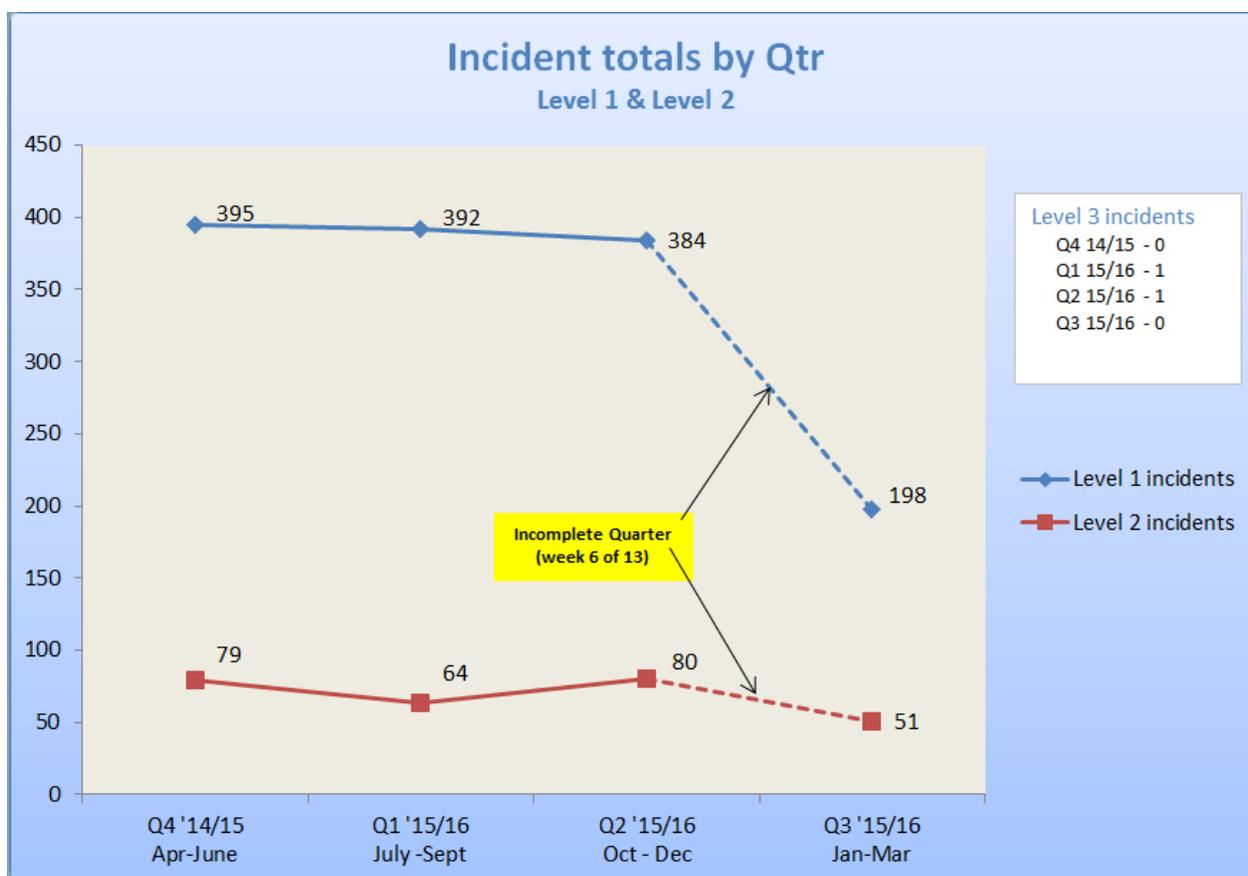
Injuries	Fatalities
11	0

## Reportable incidents overview

*Note: While all incidents are investigated, generally only level 2 and 3 incidents are summarised below.*

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	MECH EQUIPMENT 317658643001	Flames and smoke were seen coming out of the retard resistor grill on a rear dump truck. The resistor bank failed with fire consuming insulation on wiring.	Maintenance schemes for such plant must include regular inspection of the resistor grid mounting systems, the integrity of the resistor grids and associated terminations by competent persons. This is in addition to regular cleaning activities.
2	ELECTRICAL ENERGY 317658710001	Employee received a reported electric shock while using a magnetic drill to install a cover plate on a hydrator mixer – possible faulty drill or base. Investigation ongoing.	Portable tools and extension leads used by a mine are to be routinely tested and an inspection tag attached. As part of pre-start inspections, equipment and leads without an in-date tag must be tagged out of service and not used.  Consideration should be given to the use of battery powered tools over low voltage (240V) tools and permanent magnet over 240V electro-magnetic drill bases.  Refer to previously issued safety alert <a href="#">SA10-02 – Severe Electric Shock from Power Tool</a> .

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	MECH EQUIPMENT 317658700001	A night shift operator parked his 240T excavator beside an identical machine to swap units. He was then called away. He returned about 3 hours later and, having changed his plan, accidentally slewed the bucket into the other excavator resulting in significant damage to the engine compartment and fire suppression system.	Procedures should include safe machine operation and parking including: designated parking areas; excavators being parked more than their swing radius from other plant; mandatory walk around pre-start up checks.
2	GAS 317658696001	A number of notifications for methane levels greater than 2.0% by volume have been reported from underground coal mine operations.	Operators should review the adequacy of gas drainage and ventilation systems such that methane levels in areas where people work or travel are as low as reasonably practicable.
2	STRUCTURAL FAILURE 317657849001	A longhole production drill was drilling upholes when the drill broke through on the level above in proximity to mobile plant and personnel. The daily work plan had been changed and procedural failure meant the breakthrough area had not been isolated nor advised to the driller - who expected to breakthrough into an open stope. This led to crews being unaware of the hazard.	Multiple formal controls should apply at each step of any process (mine planning through to drilling) that involves drilling into potentially accessible voids. Controls should include formal approval; exclusion zones; clear drilling plans and sections as well as a breakthrough plan. Drilling should only be authorised after confirmation by a competent person that the appropriate controls are in place.



## Recent incident publications

Type	Identifier	Title	Date published
Safety alert	SA16-01	<a href="#">Driver loses control of light vehicle and crashes in underground mine.</a>	19 Feb 2016

You can find all our incident related publications (i.e. safety alerts, safety bulletins, incident information releases, weekly incident summaries and investigation reports) on our [website](#).

## Further information

Should you wish to seek further information, please contact one of our offices:

### COAL (NORTH) and EAST METEX

#### Maitland

NSW Department of Industry  
Mineral Resources  
516 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320  
(PO Box 344, Hunter Region MC  
NSW 2310)  
T 1300 736 122 or 02 4931 6666  
F 02 4931 6790  
E [mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au)

### COAL (SOUTH)

#### Wollongong

NSW Department of Industry  
State Government Offices  
Level 3, Block F, 84 Crown Street,  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
(PO Box 674, Wollongong NSW 2520)  
T 02 4222 8333  
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### WEST METEX

#### Orange

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161 Kite Street, Orange NSW 2800  
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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2016). 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 Industry, Skills and Regional Development or the user's independent advisor.