Weekly incident summary

NSW RESOURCES REGULATOR

Week ending 28 February 2018

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	36
Summarised incident total	4

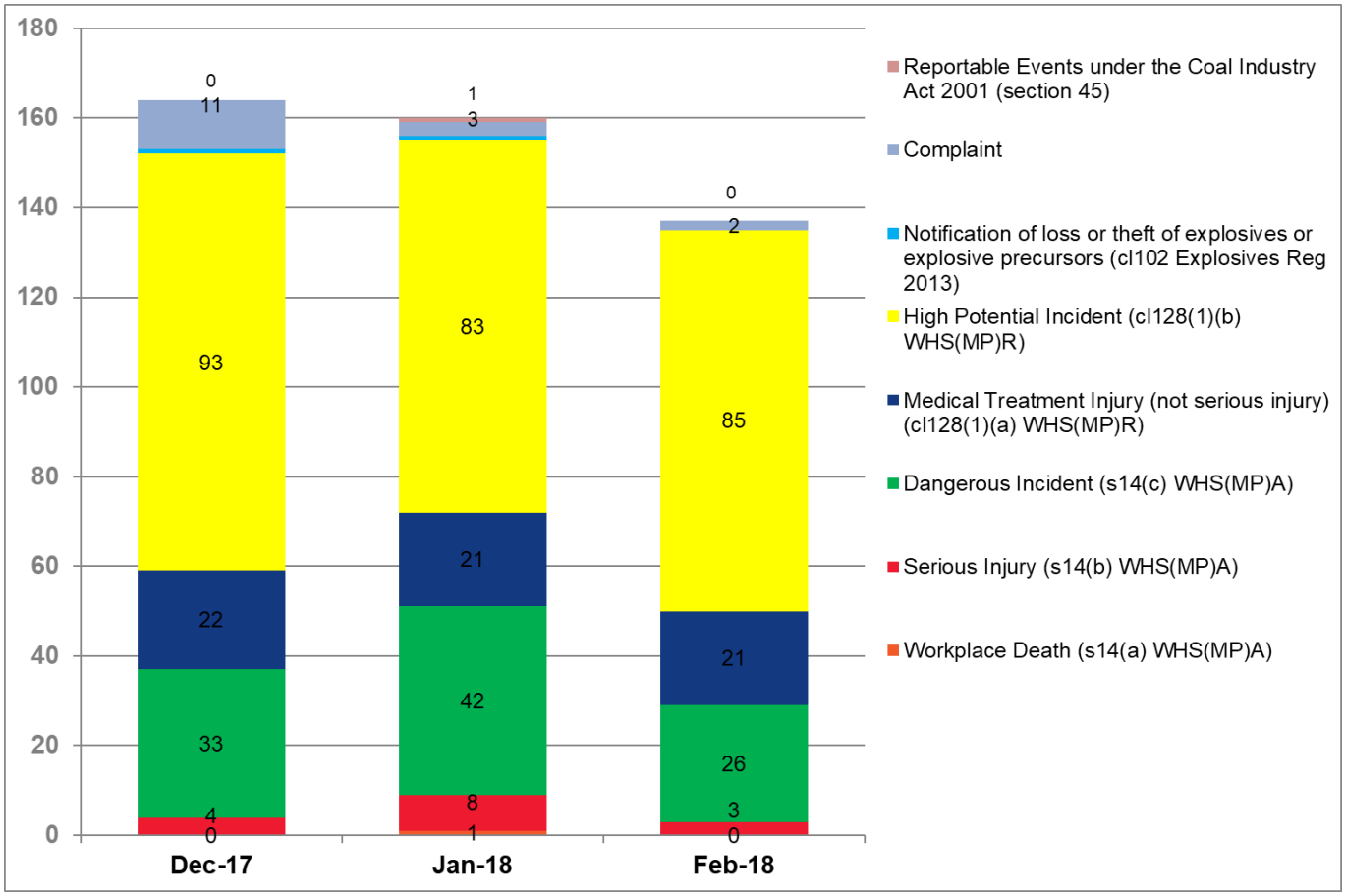
Summarised incidents

Incident type	Summary	Recommendations to industry
Dangerous incident SinNot-2018/00293	A contract fitter was using a high-torque wrench to remove bolts from the final drive on an excavator. He had a remote control in his hand and was using his right leg to steady the wrench in place when a failure occurred at the fitting/coupling at the manifold block on the high torque wrench. The fitter was sprayed with oil. The fitter was taken to first aid and checked but no entry point of fluid was located.	Mine operators and contractors working with high pressure portable apparatus should ensure that: → pre-use inspections are available for workers → pre-use inspections address both mechanical and electrical safeguards → guarding such as hose sleeves, metal or flexible covers should be considered for all parts of the equipment where there is potential hazard of fluid release due to the failure of hoses, fittings and seals. → provisions are made for the torque wrench to remain stable while the operator uses a remote control device at a safe distance from the energy source.

Dangerous incident SinNot-2018/00289	A dump truck reversed to a dump windrow on an active tip head to tip a load of waste. The windrow collapsed behind the rear tyres with the truck's tyres going through the windrow.	Mine operators should review how workers are trained and assessed in recognising when a critical control is not in place or to the correct standard, such as windrow design. Mine operators should review how their supervisors monitor critical controls and actions to be taken where critical controls are identified as being inadequate.
Dangerous incident SinNot-2018/00274	While inspecting a dewatering pump in a sump, a mine deputy removed a 2" air hose from the 6" pipe range manifold to which it was connected to identify the cause of a blockage. After opening the valve, the deputy felt for an air flow with the back of his left hand and felt only a small movement of air. There was a sudden release of a pressurised substance and as a result, the back of the deputy's left hand was hit by coal particles and compressed air.	Mine operators should review how workers and supervisors are trained in recognising the potential hazards associated with all energy sources. This is especially important when there is the potential for an unexpected stored energy associated with blockages to be released without warning. This is the third similar incident within a short period: 1. Mud / slurry pump - blocked delivery. 2. Air pump – blocked delivery. 3. Airline – blocked outlet. All workers involved were in the 'line of fire'.
Dangerous incident SinNot-2018/00263	The bearing on a water cart's front left tyre failed during operation. This allowed the brake calliper to make contact with the brake disc, causing a rubber dust cover to catch fire.	Mine operators should review the life cycle management of wheel bearings for the operating conditions at their mine including: → when trucks are operated within the gross vehicle limits by the manufacturer → axle loads (front versus rear) are within the limits

recommended by the manufacturer

→ wheel bearings are being maintained and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.



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.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information on which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Planning and Environment or the user's independent advisor.

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