

MINE NEWS SAFETY

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Department of Mineral Resources

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MINISTER ATTENDS NORTHPARKES MEMORIAL SERVICE

A moving memorial service was held recently by the Northparkes Mine in Parkes, central western NSW, in honour of the four workers killed in a mining accident there twelve months ago.

The ceremony, conducted on November 24, was held at Bushman Hill Reserve in Parkes, the site of the first mine in the region.

As part of the ceremony, two memorial plaques were laid to commemorate the men's lives. The plaques were attached to a copper ore stone from the mine

Several hundred people attended the emotional ceremony including relatives and families of the miners.

The Minister for Mineral Resources, Eddie Obeid laid a wreath at the ceremony in the miners' memory. Director General of the Department of Mineral Resources Alan Coutts, former Northparkes Mines General Manager Pat Emory, mining workmates, mine officials and community representatives were also at the ceremony.

The service was in memory of Ross Bodkin, Colin Lloyd-Jones, Michael House and Stuart Osman who died last year, along with Stephen Shorrock who was killed in 1996. ■■



(Photograph courtesy of the Parkes Champion Post)

Minister for Mineral Resources Eddie Obeid, laying a wreath at the Northparkes Mines memorial service.



Northparkes copper-gold mine is in central west NSW, 27 Km north of the town of Parkes.

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The Department of Mineral Resources is targeting a marked improvement in the safety record of all sectors of the mining industry in NSW.

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MINE SAFETY OFFICERS UNDERGO REFRESHER TRAINING

Mine Safety Officers (MSO) working within the Mine Safety and Environment Division of the Department of Mineral Resources have recently undergone some refresher training in hazard identification and assessment to enhance their role in promoting mine safety at metalliferous mines and quarries.

The hazard identification course was designed to form part of the ongoing training being delivered to MSOs. It was structured around a one day class room teaching session, followed by a full day at a quarry site applying the knowledge and skills in an operational situation, and finally a third day of analysis and discussion on lessons learnt. A report was

then prepared for the quarry Manager on the hazards that had been identified and assessed on site.

The course was facilitated by Bruce Kremmer (recently retired Area Manager of the Department's Northern region), Julie Armour (Working Armour consultants) and Les Gardner (Area Manager, South East).

The course was considered invaluable learning for those MSOs taking part, and continuing feedback has been received on both the applicability and practicality of the skills taught, particularly in their relevance to mine inspections.

Course organisers would like to extend their special thanks to Boral Australian Construction Materials for the opportunity to utilise Dunmore Quarry as an essential part of the training course. ■■



On site assessment of access walkways.



Safety operations staff and training facilitators made use of practical training examples.



COAL MINING HEALTH AND SAFETY A NSW GOVERNMENT PRIORITY

The submissions received in response to the discussion paper "Transforming Health and Safety Regulation in NSW Coal Mines" are now being worked through as part of the preparation for the draft bill.

By the October closing date 19 submissions had been received from a wide cross section of industry, including industry associations, trade unions, companies and individuals.

Once these have been worked through there is to be a further round of industry consultation as part of the preparation.

The Mine Safety Council has established a tripartite Consulting Group to liaise with the Coal Safety Advisory Committee in reviewing the submissions and preparing a report for the Council.

The discussion paper on health and safety in the coal mining industry, raised a range of issues and the industry was given eleven weeks to prepare its responses.

The paper was first put forward in July this year by the Minister for Mineral Resources, Eddie Obeid at the Occupational Health and Safety Conference, in Terrigal.

The release of the discussion paper has been supported by a number of industry seminars and workshops, which were held at Penrith and Singleton in September.

"The New South Wales Government has provided nearly \$14million towards improving health and safety in mines," said Mr Obeid.

"The Government is committed to having the best legislation to protect the lives and well being of coal miners".

"I hope the discussion paper and its consideration by the coal industry will be instrumental in establishing the legislative framework we need in NSW", added Mr Obeid.

"In November 1999, I announced the start of a major review of health and safety legislation covering the State's coalmines.

"This will be a comprehensive process and the Government is committed to consultation with all affected parties". ■■■



Minister for Mineral Resources, The Hon Eddie Obeid, officially opening the mining industry's annual Occupational Health and Safety Conference.



The review of health and safety legislation for NSW coal mines was released during the Terrigal conference.

STATUS OF MAJOR MINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Convictions

Company	Date	Penalty
Kembla Coal and Coke	16 August 1999	\$50,000 plus costs
Hoipo Quarry	15 March 2000	\$80,000 plus costs
Oberon Quarries	13 April 2000	\$10,000 plus costs
Corndale	22 May 2000	\$1,500 plus conditions on defendant

Prosecutions Proceeding

Berrima Coal Pty Limited	Matter has been 'stood over' pending judgement.
United Collieries Pty Ltd	Matter yet to be heard.

Coroner's Court

Investigation reports have been submitted to the Coroner's Court on five separate matters. One matter has been completed and dispensed with, and the other four matters are pending.

Under Investigation

There are 10 separate matters that are under investigation.

Importantly, there have been no new matters added to this investigation list since being reported in the last issue of Mine Safety News, in August 2000. ■■■



There have been no new accidents to add to the Investigation Unit's list.

TARGETING SAFETY IN SMALL MINES

The State Government has begun a campaign to help mine operators develop formal mine site safety programs to meet their requirements under new legislation.

Small mines are described as those which have less than five employees. There are about 1000 of these in NSW, without taking into account the hundreds of small opal mines.

The Department's Small Mines Campaign will help these mines to meet new challenges and to work in new ways to improve safety and health on mine sites.

One of the key changes in the new General Rule (General Rule 2000) of the Mines Inspection Act, is the requirement for every mine to have a safety management plan in place by September 1, 2001. All mines and quarries must now use risk assessment methods to understand and deal with hazards on site and then build these into a safety management plan.

The campaign is made up of workshops across the State. Some have been held already and more have been planned. The first of these were run in a joint effort between the Department of Mineral Resources and the Institute of Quarrying Australia (NSW Branch). The Department began to roll out its follow-up program in November, this year.

Department help

Safety Operations staff from the Department understand that developing a safety management plan can be a difficult task for many general managers and owners of small



Participants were eager to learn about safety management plans and the General Rule 2000 at recent workshops.

mines. Safety Operations have a practical program to help such operators to:

- understand the new law,
- work out how to assess risks on site and manage them, and
- help to develop a safety management plan.

Numbers in each program are kept small so that workshop presenters can give as much assistance as possible to those attending. In the program, workshop presenters explain how the law and safety management plans work together to improve safety and health performance on a mine site. Two workshops are included in each program, which are held about three months apart. Step-by-step, participants will learn what needs to be done and will start to develop their own safety management plans.

After each workshop, presenters will visit every mine or quarry in the program to do some practical work and to see how things are progressing and to help put the workshop information into practice.

The Department encourages small mine owners and managers to register their interest in attending one of the programs in an area near them. It is also keen to know in what areas the industry would like to have future

programs held. To register your interest, fax: Steve Stewart, Workshop Co-ordinator, on (02) 9901 8584.

When registering, please indicate which of the following towns is nearest to your mine or quarry:

- Lismore
- Tamworth
- Orange
- Wagga
- Dubbo
- Wollongong
- Bega
- Other (if you cannot get to one of the towns above). ■■

** From figures based on a common performance measure of million man hours worked*



Susan Fields leads discussion during information sessions for extractive and metalliferous mine workers.





SYDNEY UNI MINING REUNION

A reunion of Sydney University Mining Engineering graduates is to be held in Sydney on February 17, 2001.

Mining Engineering was established at the University of Sydney in 1874, and was offered as a degree until 1990. During this time, several generations of global leaders in the mining industry, finance, government and academia have been produced.



Although never one of the biggest mining schools, graduates were equipped with not only excellent technical skills, but also a sense of adventure as well as a sense of history.

Sydney University graduates often went straight to work in such exotic locations as South Africa (gold), Malaysia (tin) and in more recent times, South America and Indonesia. The bulk of students, however, spent their operational years in the coalfields of the Illawarra, Hunter Valley or Lithgow, the metal mines of Broken Hill or Cobar, or the various mines of Tasmania, Western Australia or Queensland.

Many Sydney University mining graduates are still working in the industry, and many are actively involved in improving mine safety.

Further details can be obtained from:

Peter Doyle (1985)
Ph: (02) 9649 8959
Email: doylep@ozemail.com.au
or
David Laurence (1976)
Ph: (02) 9385 4597
Email: d.laurence@unsw.edu.au ■■

GENERAL RULE 2000 WORKSHOP FOR SAFETY OPERATIONS

A workshop in Orange on the Mines Inspection General Rule 2000 in August saw 38 Departmental Safety Operations staff take part.

Held on August, 29-30 on the eve of the introduction of the new legislation, the main objective of the workshop was to prepare those responsible for implementing the Mines Inspection General Rule 2000.

A key element of the workshop was a detailed analysis of clauses contained in the document in order to achieve consistent and effective interpretation and implementation.

This opportunity also enabled Safety Operations staff to participate in discussions on the strategic direction and responsibilities of the group and it's future role in working with organisations in the implementation of legislation.

Communication and role out of the General Rule through further workshops with industry representatives and

the application of the Institute of Quarrying Workbook were agreed as significant Department of Mineral Resources initiatives in the near future.

On completion of the Workshop, attendees visited the Newcrest Cadia Hill gold mine for a tour of the operation and presentations on the Cadia Mine Safety Management Plan. ■■



Internal workshop sessions are an important part of DMR staff training for the implementation of General Rule 2000.



Safety Operations officers taking in a site visit to Cadia Hill gold mine.

SAFETY WARNINGS ISSUED

Unguarded plant blitzed by Qld inspectors

A blitz of Queensland work places by the State's Division of Workplace Health and Safety has found that thousands of workers are at risk of serious injury from unguarded machinery.

The findings of the Qld audit are reported in the latest Safety Bulletin, an information bulletin published by the National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA). The audit found that of the 311 workplaces inspected, over 3000 workers were at risk of injury from 1892 pieces of plant, work environments or work practices.

"Plant guarding was the main target of this blitz after research showed an amputation was occurring at the rate of one per working

day in Queensland" said the Qld Divisional Manager of Workplace Health and Safety.

Tyre explosion warning

Another report in the same issue of Safety Bulletin included a warning about tyre explosions following contact with electricity.

A 60 year-old farmer was seriously injured when three semi-trailer tyres exploded 15 minutes after the vehicle had touched a live power line. The farmer was approaching the vehicle when the three tyres exploded. The WA Department of Minerals and Energy warned that tyres can explode up to 24 hours after contact with a power line.

The NSCA Safety Bulletin is available free of charge via email or check out the NSCA's official Safety Network web site at www.safetynews.com ■■

DIESEL PARTICULATE - CLEARING THE AIR

Diesel powered equipment has been extensively used in underground coal mines for many years.

In the past, employees have expressed concern over potential adverse health effects arising from exposure to diesel exhaust emissions.

A video on diesel equipment has been prepared by the Joint Coal Board.

The video focuses on the issue of diesel particulate and covers topics such as:

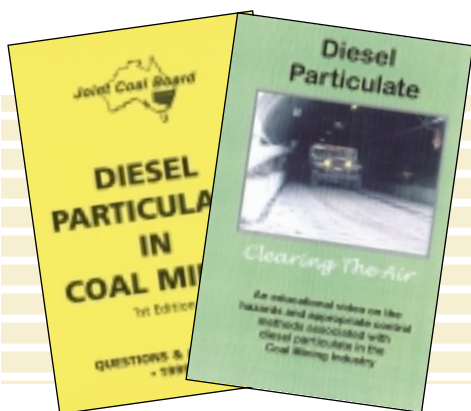
- Composition of diesel particulate
- Health effects
- Monitoring methods
- Control technologies
- Industry initiatives
- Ongoing research

Guidance is also provided as to how to implement an appropriate control strategy using information produced by an industry taskforce.

A small booklet complements the video and provides answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding diesel particulate in coal mines.

The cost of the video is \$27.50 (including GST) and the booklet is supplied free of charge. Copies of both the video and the booklet can be obtained from Ken Cram at the JCB, on telephone (02) 4222 9023.

Should you have any questions, please contact either Ken Cram at the JCB, or Brian Davies, Chairman of the JCB Sub-Committee on Diesel Particulate on (02) 4228 0197 or email: aehs@w150.aone.net.au. ■■



A booklet and video on diesel particulate are available from the JCB.

PERMITS FOR PRODUCTION MANAGERS PART OF NEW WORKSHOP FORUMS

The Department of Mineral Resources' Armidale regional office has been conducting Production Managers workshops throughout the year. This is a new initiative of the Department's Armidale officers, and is aimed at getting up-to-date information to Production and General Mine Managers in an interactive workshop format.

The third of these workshops for 2000 was held at the Armidale office on September 11. The workshop session included 20 industry representatives who discussed subjects including:

- An overview of legislation
- Mine Safety Management Plans
- Emergency preparedness
- Hazard identification and risk assessment
- Accident/incident reporting

The workshop focuses on involving both General Managers and Production Managers in a manner that highlights their responsibilities under the respective

legislation. A strong emphasis on performance based outcomes is reinforced during the day and duty of care obligations are discussed in detail.

The Department encourages and appreciates the involvement of General Managers in the workshop sessions. The commitment of site personnel of this level is a real indication of the positive steps being made by industry toward the proactive reduction of site hazards.

Feedback on the workshop forums has been very supportive, with a positive raising of awareness of industry responsibilities under current legislation.

During the course of the workshop 12 candidates successfully obtained their Production Managers Permits.

Workshops are currently run on a quarterly basis and will continue to provide a forum for information transfer and a learning opportunity for both industry and the Department.

Please contact the Department's regional offices for further information on workshop schedules. ■■



Paul White, a Safety Operations officer at the Armidale regional office, presenting risk management and hazard identification techniques to Production and General Mine Managers at a Departmental permit workshop.

LEGISLATION UPDATES

No.	Title	Date
8/2000	Mines Inspection General Rule 2000	1 September 2000
9/2000	Reporting failure of explosion protection	16 September 2000

Copies of legislation updates can be down loaded from the Department's web site <www.minerals.nsw.gov.au> under the Safety section.

Please refer to your local Department of Mineral Resources Office (see back page) for further information, or contact Chris Ellicott, Manager Regulatory Development:

Phone: (02) 9901 8412

Fax: (02) 9901 8584

Email: ellicot@minerals.nsw.gov.au



MAINTENANCE OF SELF RESCUERS

A working group comprising NSW and Qld industry representatives and manufacturers/suppliers of self rescuers, has developed a draft code for maintenance of escape breathing apparatus (self rescuers) used in underground mines.

This draft code, prepared under chairmanship of Graham Fawcett, Manager Mine Safety Laboratory, reference MDG 3006 MRT 7, has been circulated to industry and suppliers for review and comment.

It is anticipated that this code may eventually become the industry standard. Ultimately, the code will replace the maintenance provisions included in the approvals previously issued for filter and chemical oxygen self rescuers used in underground coal mines.

For further information on technical matters, please contact Graham Fawcett on (02) 9646 1644, or email: fawcettg@minerals.nsw.gov.au.

For copies of the draft Code for Maintaining and Monitoring the Performance of Escape Breathing Apparatus used in Underground Coal Mines" - MDG 3006 MRT 7, please contact the Department's Steve Stewart on (02) 9901 8413, or email: stewarts@minerals.nsw.gov.au. ■■



Some of the types of self rescuers in use in the industry.

"The most important thing to come out of a mine is the miner"

Frederic Le Play (1806-1882)
French sociologist and Inspector General of Mines of France

INNOVATIONS IN MINING

The annual NSW Minerals Council OH&S Innovation Awards held in Terrigal earlier this year saw three high commendations awarded as well as overall winner, prior to the OH&S Conference.

The judging panel, made up of Susan Fields (consultant), Professor Dennis Else (National OH&S Commission) and Graham Terrey (Department of Mineral Resources), made special comment on the excellent standard of entries, and the exceedingly difficult job they had to select only one winner.

The awards were held on Sunday July 30.

Of the 18 entries received, three high commendations were given to:

- BHP Elouera / NSW Mines Rescue Service - Mine Evacuation and Escape Strategies Training Course
- Warkworth Mining - Safe Installation of Screen Panels at Warkworth CHPP
- Coal & Allied Mt Thorley Operations - Bottom Track Roller Change-Out Tool

However, the winner for this year's OH&S Innovation Award, selected by both the

judges and the industry vote, went to:

- Camberwell Coal for the Strut Tensioning Adapter Tool.

The tool was developed and manufactured by Camberwell Coal maintenance technicians and has the benefits of significantly decreasing risk, reducing the time to complete the task by 50%, and resulting reduction in down times of company trucks.

Most importantly during the two years before the introduction of the adapter, Camberwell noted that "there had been two injuries reported and numerous near misses". Since the adapter tool was introduced "there has been no report of incident, injury or near miss".

Congratulations must be extended to all 18 entrants for the 2000 Award for contributing to a highly innovative and particularly practical competition. ■■



Representatives of the OH&S Innovation Award winning team for 2000 - Camberwell Coal.

SAFETY ALERTS

No.	Date	Title
SA 00-20	13 September 2000	Electric shock from welding equipment
SA 00-21	20 September 2000	Major excavator fire at open cut coal mine
SA 00-22	23 August 2000	Failure of earth leakage protection results in fire

Copies of safety alerts can be down loaded from the Department's web site Safety page at <www.minerals.nsw.gov.au>.

For hard copies of safety alerts, please contact the Department's Steve Stewart on:
Phone: (02) 9901 8413
Fax: (02) 9901 8584
Email: stewarts@minerals.nsw.gov.au

HEALTHY BUSINESS AND SAFE MINING THE FOCUS OF CONFERENCE

The annual NSW mining industry Occupational Health and Safety Conference was held in Terrigal, on the Central Coast, on July 31 and August 1, this year.

The OH&S conference is the major mining health and safety event each year in this State and provides an opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas concerning the health and well being of mining industry workers.



Susan Johnston, mine safety consultant and NSW Mine Safety Review team leader addressing the Terrigal OH&S Conference.

This year's Conference, "Safe Mining: Healthy Business", was co-hosted by the Department of Mineral Resources and the NSW Minerals Council.

It was very well supported through industry sponsorship, including mining companies such as Coal & Allied, Newcrest, Peabody, BHP, Glencore Coal and Coal Operations Australia Limited.

Close to 350 people from across the mining industry attended the Conference, including mining students from the University of NSW, our next generation of mining professionals.

Key presentations at the Conference included:

- priorities for improving safety performance

- how best to manage risk
- how to identify potential hazards

The Minister for Mineral Resources, Eddie Obeid gave the opening address, highlighting the Government's well-known commitment to improving mine safety in NSW.

The Carr Government has provided \$13.9 million over five years towards this objective.

Practical initiatives and research projects undertaken on site were a feature of this year's conference presentations, proving that safe mining and healthy business go hand in hand.

A selection of papers from the Terrigal OH&S Conference will shortly be available from the NSW Minerals Council web site (www.nswmin.com.au). ■■



Delegates from industry, government and workforce representatives took part in the two day OH&S conference.

FINAL YEAR MINING ENGINEERING STUDENTS ATTEND OH&S CONFERENCE

For the second year in a row, final year mining engineering students of the UNSW School of Mining Engineering attended the NSW Minerals Council's OH&S Conference, at Terrigal.

Student participation at the Conference was made possible by the sponsorship of a number of companies and organisations including the Joint Coal Board, Anglo Coal, Exxon Coal & Minerals Aust Ltd, Springvale Coal Pty Ltd, Allied Coal Pty Ltd, CIM Resources, Coalpac Pty Ltd, Camberwell Coal Pty Ltd. Special thanks are also due to the NSW Department of Mineral Resources and the NSW Minerals Council for their support.

The students were exposed to many of the "real life" issues that they will be confronting within a year or so when working on mine

sites throughout Australia and elsewhere. These issues include:

- Legislative reform and its impact on key stakeholders
- Risk management and decision-making
- Safety Management Systems
- Safety Culture
- Lessons from mine disasters
- High consequence, low frequency incidents v low consequence, high frequency incidents
- Shiftwork and fatigue
- Continuous improvement
- Communicating the safety message
- Safety competence and training

Feedback from the students was very positive and demonstrates that students are being taught comprehensive technical skills and equally important skills such as OHS, environment, financial and management expertise.



UNSW mining students are an important audience attending the NSW OH&S Conference at Terrigal.

For further information contact d.laurence@unsw.edu.au ■■



LEGISLATION AND SAFETY

As part of the broader picture of the health and safety of all mine workers a range of options is available to the Department's Safety Operations staff to help industry ensure mines are operating to acceptable safety standards.

Under mine safety legislation written 'notices' can be issued in cases where there are concerns over mine safety. In such cases, mines can be issued with 'stop work orders'.

A range of enforcement

These options include:

- giving advice
- issuing an instruction
- giving a direction
- issuing a written notice of concern (Coal Mines Regulation Act S61 and Mines Inspection Act S36B)
- issuing an improvement notice (CMRA S63, S63A and MIA S37)
- issuing a prohibition notice (CMRA S63, S63A and MIA S37A - 'stop work' orders)
- reviewing and/or upholding a notice
- a formal warning
- seeking a court order
- prosecution

The responses are available to best suit the circumstances, including the nature and possible consequences of a health or safety concern and the immediacy of any danger.

As part of these options, Safety Operations staff are able to issue written notices when they have a concern, require an improvement to be made or are prohibiting an activity or use of equipment.

It is a requirement of the Coal Mines (General) Regulation 1999 that any expression of concern, must be written down. The Mines Inspection Act 1901 has no similar requirement. This may go some way towards explaining the large number of notices issued under coal mining legislation as compared to the MIA.

Notices issued

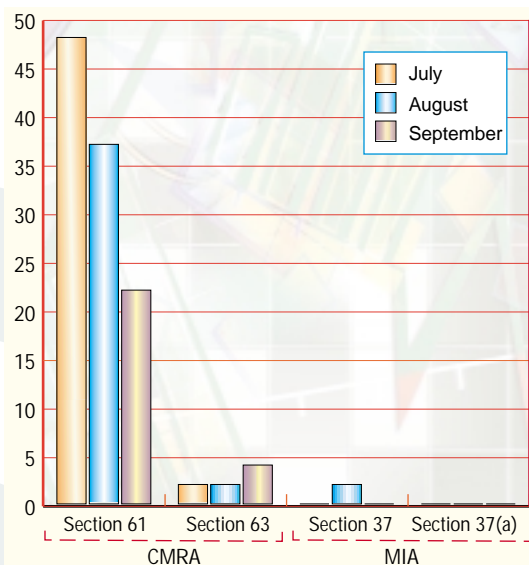
Written 'notices' are designed to record specific breaches and the necessary remedial action. A failure to respond, or an inadequate response to a written notice will lead to a more serious sanction being applied. Written notices are a record of a safety problem and may be drawn upon for performance analysis.

Section 61 of the CMRA (Part 4 Division 1) gives a duty to Safety Operations officers to 'inform mine management of certain matters' that could effect the safe operation of the mine or the safety of the those employed at the mine. Section 63 of the same legislation allows Safety Operations officers to 'impose prohibitions or restrictions or direct evacuation or closure of mine'.

An example of a Section 61 or Section 63 notice could involve an unsafe piece of equipment or plant that may need modification prior to it's use, or requiring further support to be installed underground before allowing personnel to re-enter the area of concern.

Similar legislative provisions are in the MIA under Sections 36B, 37 and 37A.

A summary of notices issued under relevant legislation (for the first quarter 2000/01) is presented in the attached graph. An assessment of the types of safety of health



Summary of Notices issued for the 1st quarter 2000/01.

concerns incurring notices, the areas in which they occur and the frequency with which they occur can provide some insight into the safety performance of the industry as a whole, and the particular areas in which remedial efforts need to be targeted.

A written notice is a response to a serious issue. This type of enforcement measure is aimed at raising awareness and education about particular areas of concern and unsafe practices.

Who is responsible?

It is important to note that although the Department acts under a specific enforcement policy, it is the primary responsibility of the industry to ensure compliance and conformity with acceptable safety standards. This not only includes mining companies and mine management, but mine workers and manufacturers and suppliers of plant and equipment.

A copy of the NSW Government's current policy 'The Enforcement of Health and safety Standards in Mines' can be down-loaded from the safety pages of the Department's web site at www.minerals.nsw.gov.au ■■

SAFETY PUBLICATIONS

Title	Issued	Cost
Mine Subsidence in the Southern Coalfield NSW, Australia	September 2000	\$88.00
Investigation Unit information brochure	September 2000	Free*
Guidelines for Safe Mining - 2000	October 2000	\$30.00
Safety Management Plan Workbook - 2000	October 2000	\$30.00
Abstract of the Mines Inspection Act 1901, General Rule 2000, and Mines Inspection Regulation 1999 (2000 Edition)	October 2000	Free*

To obtain copies of safety publications, contact your regional office (see back page for details) or the Department's Head Office Information Counter:

Phone: (02) 9901 8269

Fax: (02) 9901 8247

Email: maniakak@minerals.nsw.gov.au

*Publications can also be down loaded from the Department's web site free of charge <www.minerals.nsw.gov.au>.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORTING

New information on safety performances, using data from the Department's COMET database is shown as graph on this page.

Fatalities

There have been no fatalities in the first (September) quarter of 2000/01. It has been 15 months without a fatality in the coal sector and almost 6 months since the last fatality in the metalliferous and extractives sectors. The Gretley disaster in 1996/97 and the Northparkes tragedy in 1999/00 resulted in multiple fatalities which accounts for the unacceptably high loss of life during those periods.

Reportables - Metalliferous & Extractives

The term "reportables" is used to describe those incidents or events on mine sites which are reported to the Department in accordance with the provisions of the Mines Inspection Act 1901. Dangerous Incident, Minor Accident and Serious Injury were categories traditionally used by the Department to classify and publish data on "reportables". Dangerous Incidents included incidents defined in the Act such as in rush of water in large volumes, and failure of ventilation, etc. The Minor Accident and Serious Injury categories include Lost Time Injuries, amputations, fractures, burns and others.

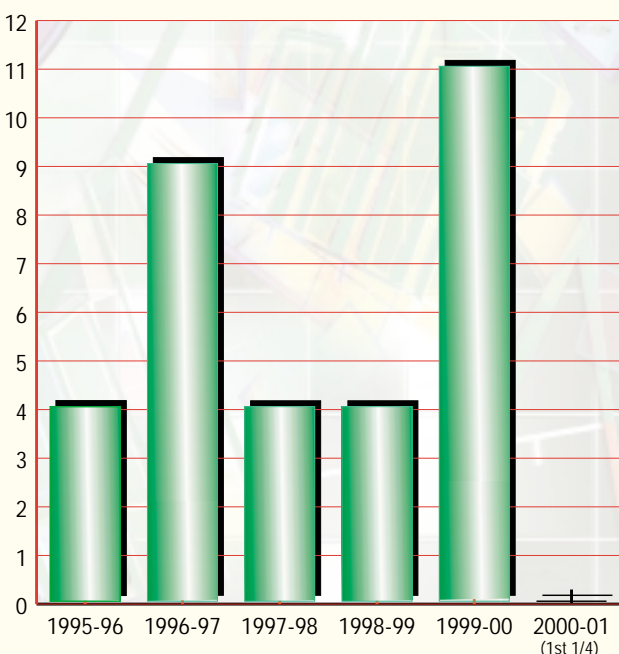
Additional categories of "reportables" ie. Emergencies and High Potential Incidents are now included as part of the continued development of the COMET database. In the past, Emergencies and High Potential Incidents were included under Dangerous Incidents, which accounts for what appears to be a sharp decline in these events from 1997/98 to 1998/99. In order to provide more detailed information on these type of incidents and to provide consistent data, it has been decided to report on these five categories of events separately as from June 1, 2000. Trends will

emerge over time and these will be commented on in future Departmental safety reports and publications, including Mine Safety News.

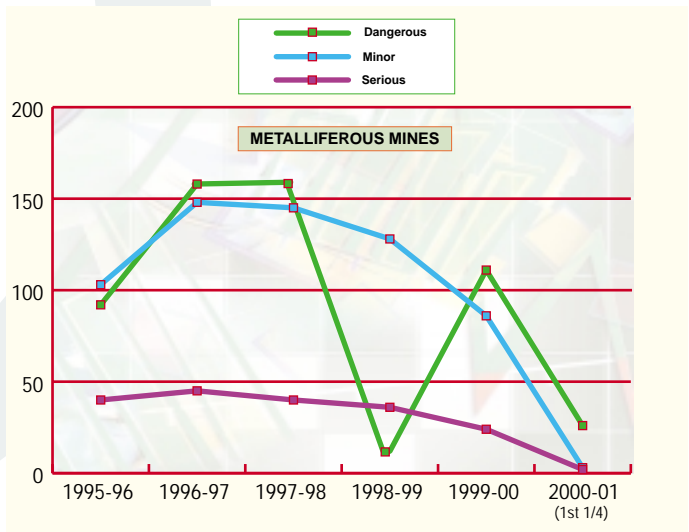
Reportables - Coal

"Reportables" in the coal sector are those events reported to the Department under the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982. Reportable Dangerous Occurrences are defined in the legislation and include incidents such as Electric Shock, Outbreak of Fire, Unplanned Movements, Cage Overwinding etc. Serious Bodily Injuries are also "reportables" and include the same type of injuries classified as Serious Injury in the Mines Inspection Act ie. Amputations, Fractures, Burns, Injection from hydraulics etc.

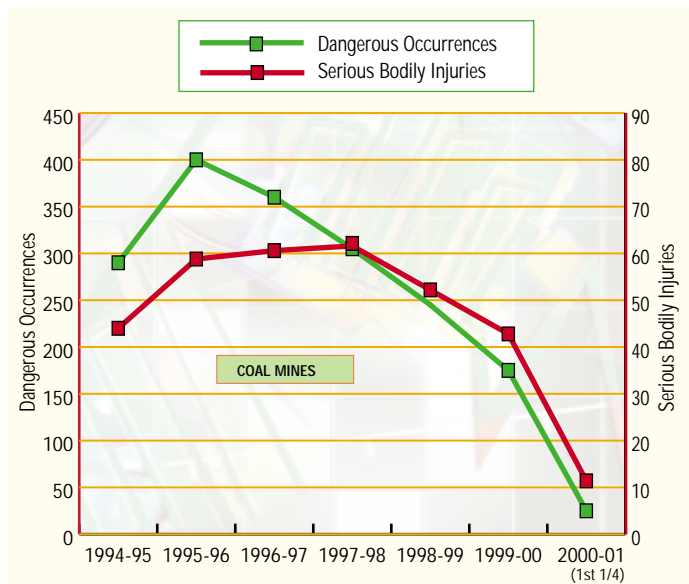
Since 1997/98 there have been significant reductions in the number of both Dangerous Occurrences and Serious Bodily Injuries in NSW coal mines and figures for the first quarter of 2000/01 suggest that this trend will continue. ■■■



Fatalities in coal, metalliferous, mineral and extractive sectors.



Reportable accidents (serious and minor) and reportable dangerous incidents for NSW metalliferous and extractives industries.



Reportable dangerous occurrences and serious bodily injuries for the NSW coal industry.



GOOD NEWS ON MINE SAFETY

If your company, or someone you know, has taken the initiative in introducing new safety ideas at your work, or has a 'good news' story to tell, Mine Safety News would like to hear about it. Simply send or phone some details through to:

Gillian Macmillan, Communication / Education Officer
 Ph: (02) 9901 8437
 Fax: (02) 9901 8584
 Email: macmillg@minerals.nsw.gov.au

Winners are grinning about mine safety

Bayswater Colliery has been named overall winner of the Award for Excellence in OH&S in the National Safety Council of Australia/Southcorp National Safety Awards of Excellence

The Awards are Australia's only national independent workplace safety awards, and are open to any person or organisation contributing to better OH&S management in Australia. Last year's winner was Ford Australia and previous winners have included the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Toyota, BHP Steel and Big W.

In addition, Bayswater was also named winner in a category for "Best implementation of an Occupational Health and Safety Management System".

In accepting the Award, Mr Ian Neill, Mine Manager, said "The coal mining industry comes under much scrutiny in terms of safety performance and its pleasing to see

some positive recognition".

"The enthusiasm displayed by all (Bayswater workers) was really a corner stone for our success and we recognise that the foundation has been laid for our continued efforts to make the workplace safer for all employees," he said.

Congratulations to Bayswater Colliery for their prestigious win.

Other health and safety competitions have been held throughout the past months with NSW operations getting into the winners circle. Many congratulations to all the operations that participate in these events, which recognise and promote the personnel and organisations that are achieving excellence in OH&S management in the Australian minerals industry.

Congratulations to: Tarong Coal, a Queensland coal mine, have won the Minex Award, the Nation's highest award for safety and health. Tarong Coal Mine is



Pictured left to right: Bayswater Colliery personnel accepting their award; Brian Selmes, Manager Safety Systems, Ian Neill, Mine Manager, Keith Smith, General Manager, Bob McGregor, Safety Training Officer.



A mine rescue exercise as part of the Metalliferous Mines & Smelters Competition held at Broken Hill.



Rob Regan, Assistant Director Safety Operations - DMR, presents the winners trophy to the team from Broken Hill Mine for best overall team at the NSW Minerals Council Metalliferous Mines and Smelters First Aid and Rescue Competition.

the first coal operation to win the Award since its inception in 1995.

Peabody Resources' Ravensworth East and Narama coal mines - Winners of the Queensland Open Cut Coal Mines Rescue Competition (the first time a NSW coal mine has won the trophy) and the Hunter Valley Open Cut Mines Rescue Competition

Appin Colliery - Winners of the Australian Mines Rescue Competition and Southern Region Champions.

Camberwell Coal - Winners of both the judges vote and industry vote at the NSW OH&S Innovation Awards (see story on page 7)

Pasminco's Broken Hill Mine - Best Overall Team at the NSW Minerals Council Metalliferous Mines and Smelters First Aid and Rescue Competition. ■■

INAUGURAL NSW METALLIFEROUS INDUSTRY TRAINING FORUM

This one day forum will focus on

- ✓ future directions
- ✓ National Metalliferous Mining Training Packages
- ✓ National Metalliferous Qualifications framework

The forum is designed to bring together the major players in the metalliferous industry in NSW to discuss management of training into the future and associated issues.

Outcomes

- ✓ to establish key regional industry networks
- ✓ to promote the National Metalliferous Mining Training Package/Qualifications
- ✓ to exchange ideas and explore solutions to training issues
- ✓ to inform participants of the National Training Framework
- ✓ to inform the mining industry of TAFE's role as an RTO in National Metalliferous Qualifications

Presenters

Guest speakers will be presenting from the National Mining ITAB, the NSW Mining ITAB, various contractor groups, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Western Institute of TAFE, NSW metalliferous mining training and management personnel, the NSW Minerals Council and ANTA.

Venue

The inaugural forum will be held in Dubbo on Friday, 9 February 2001.

Contact

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