

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2000 –
31 MARCH 2001

SUMMARY

- Six (6) fatalities were recorded in the third quarter alone of the 2000-2001 reporting year. This number includes two fatal incidents in the extractives industry and brings the number of deaths in the minerals industry to 11 for the 9-month period to 31 March.
- Half of this quarter's fatalities occurred in WA; almost half this year-to-date's fatalities occurred in WA.
- The fatalities this quarter were spread across four sectors: U/G metalliferous, O/C metalliferous, U/G coal and extractives.
- The total industry LTIFR for the first nine months of the year is estimated at eight, which is:
 - slightly higher than indicated in the first half of the year when it was seven;
 - still lower than this time last year when the rate was 11; and
 - lower than the total industry LTIFR for 1999-2000 of 11.
- LTIFR by sector shows mixed results this quarter. The year-to-date LTIFR for exploration has decreased significantly to two; both open-cut and underground coal rates have increased this quarter over last quarter to a rate of 11 and 25 respectively for the nine-month-period.

SAFETY NEWS

2001 SAFETY AND HEALTH CATASTROPHIC RISK CONFERENCE AND INNOVATION AWARDS

The Minerals Council will hold its annual safety and health conference on Thursday 21 June 2001 at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, Adelaide. The conference has as its theme *Taking Risk Assessment to the Next Level* and, subsequent to a number of multiple-fatality incidents in the industry in recent years, will focus on effective catastrophic risk management. Speakers will examine why there should be a focus on catastrophic risk, offer the regulators' viewpoint, give insight into one site's journey to effective catastrophic risk management and explore the next level of risk assessment.

On the evening before, 20 June, the National Safety and Health Innovation Awards presentation dinner will be held at the same venue. A program with details for both events can be downloaded from the Council's website homepage or return-emailed by contacting Del Da Costa at d.dacosta@minerals.org.au

2001 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS – UPDATE

There are 15 applicants participating in this year's MINEX Awards and 19 evaluators have undergone Evaluator training. Site visits are being held during the second half of June.

The MINEX Awards presentation dinner will be held on 27 August in Townsville, in conjunction with the Queensland mining industry health and

safety conference. The Queensland conference program will be available by the end of June. Contact the Conference Organiser on 07 3221 2240 or www.qmc.com.au for further information.

TARONG COAL CASE STUDY

Through the MINEX Awards, the Council seeks to drive the improvement of the industry's safety and health performance by identifying and promoting best practice. To effectively share this information throughout the industry, the Council produces and publishes case studies of MINEX Award winners and other mineral sites recognised in the MINEX Awards.

The case study featuring Tarong Coal, recipient of the 2000 MINEX Award, is now available from the Council's website www.minerals.org.au (click on *Safety & Health/MINEX*) or in hard copy format from Del Da Costa at the Council. The publication also includes a summary of the safety and health strengths of the other operations that participated in the 2000 awards.

SAFETY & HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC) is seeking nominations for the inaugural Safety and Health Professional Recognition Award. This award is designed to recognise an individual who has made a notable contribution to the improvement of safety and health in the minerals industry. Nominations close 30 June 2001. For more information, check the website: www.mishc.uq.edu.au

*“The state
of mind
where we are
constantly
aware of the
possibility
of injury
and act
accordingly
at all times.”*

Minerals Council
of Australia
Safety Awareness



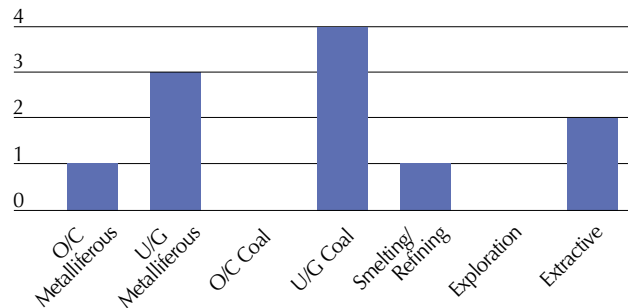
**MINERALS
COUNCIL**

OF AUSTRALIA
ACN 008 455 141
ABN 21 191 309 229

FATALITIES

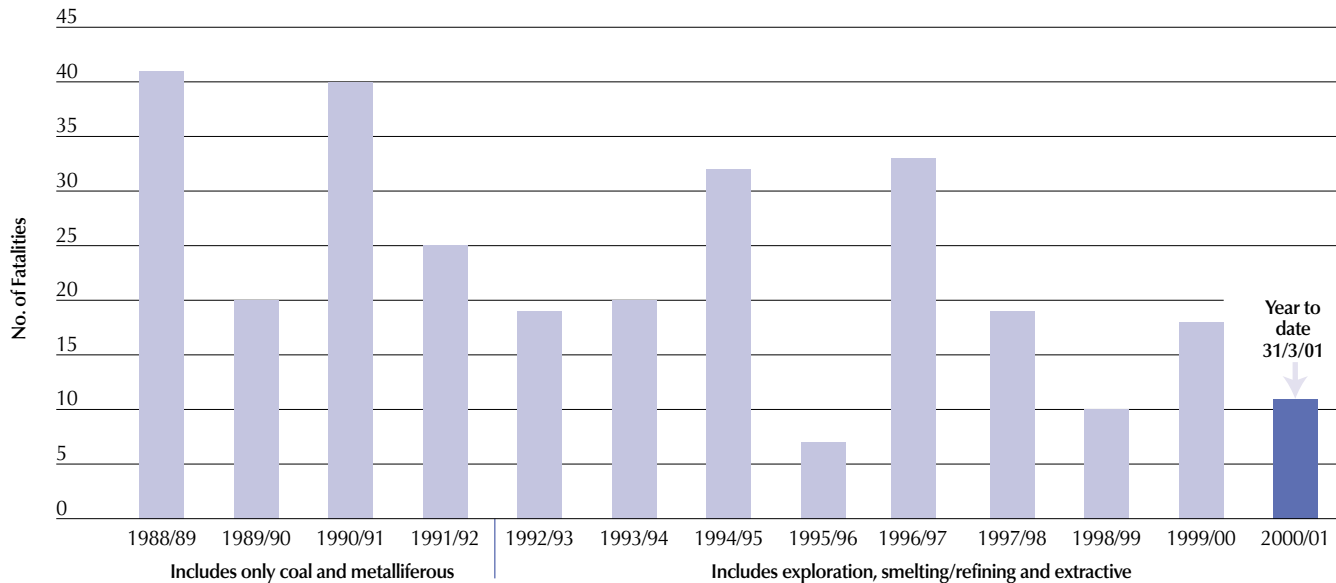
Of the six fatalities which have occurred in the third quarter, three occurred in WA, two in NSW and one in Tasmania. The fatalities were spread across four sectors: underground metalliferous, open-cut metalliferous, underground coal and extractives.

Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2000 – 31 March 2001



Fatalities 1988-89 – 31 March 2001

Information contained in the chart prior to 1992 is an estimation only.



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES from 1 January – 31 March 2001 only

There have been six fatalities this quarter.

Western Australia –
UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

Mr Zibigniew Kosowski, a 39-year-old underground manager employed by WMC Resources at Rocky’s Reward mine was struck by lightning and fatally injured while inspecting a water storage pond at Leinster Nickel.

Western Australia –
OPEN-CUT METALLIFEROUS

Mr Dean Porro, a 29-year-old employed by Henry Walker Eltin at Portman Mining’s Koolyanoobing mine, received fatal injuries when his vehicle, similar to a front-end loader, rolled over.

Western Australia –
EXTRACTIVE

Mr Russell Griffiths, a 39-year-old employee of Switch Tech Industries at the Meteor Stone Quarry in Nowergup, was found deceased near an electrical switchboard.

New South Wales –
UNDERGROUND COAL

Mr Robert Davies, 54 years, received fatal chest injuries when trapped by a rib fall at Wambo Mining’s Wollemi Mine.

New South Wales –
EXTRACTIVE

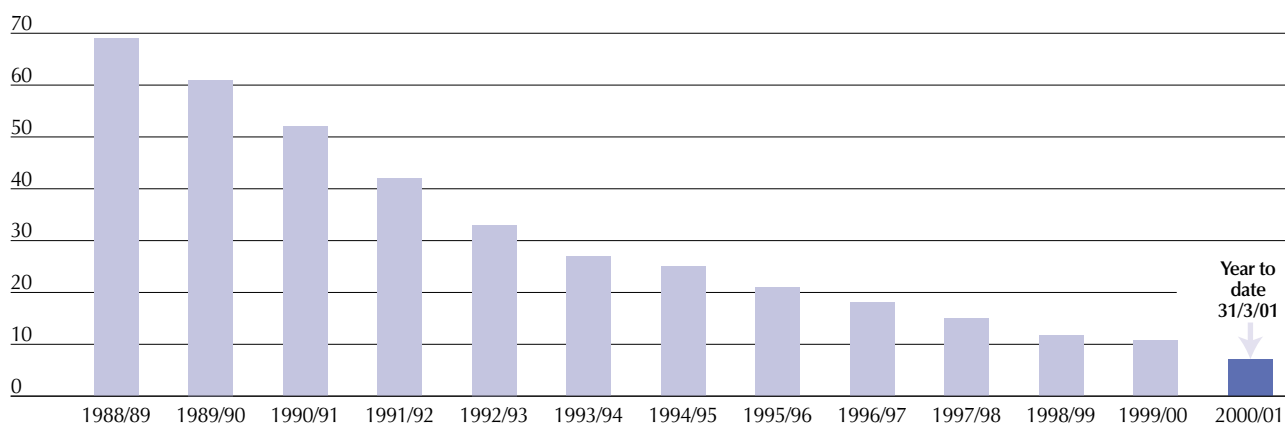
Mr Anthony Jones, aged 34, received fatal crush injuries when run over by a front end loader at Calga Sands sandstone quarry.

Victoria –
UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

Mr Patrick Stevens, a 19-year-old employed by Macmahon Holdings, was crushed as a result of an accident involving an underground truck at Bendigo Mining Company.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 31 March 2001



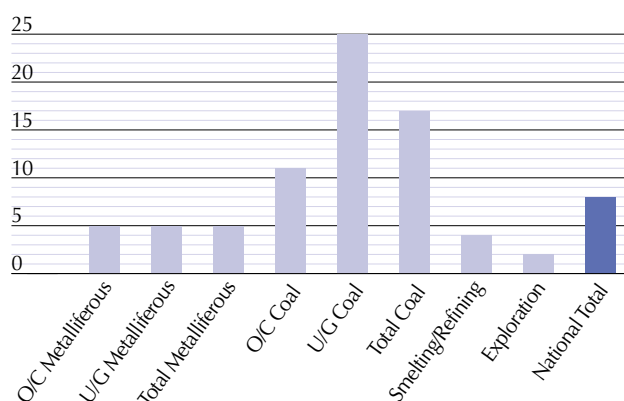
The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first three quarters of this reporting year is estimated at eight. This is an increase from the rate of seven reported for the first half of the reporting year.

Compared to last quarter, most sectors show a fairly stable LTIFR this quarter. Noteworthy is exploration's rate which has dropped to two.

Underground coal, continuing to have the highest LTIFR, has slipped back to a rate of 26 this quarter compared to 23 last quarter. Open-cut coal too has risen from eight last quarter to 11 this quarter. These result in a total coal rate of 17 for the nine months to 31 March.

Recognising the limitations of the survey methodology, the Council would not wish to draw any conclusions based on this LTIFR data alone.

LTIFR By Sector 1 July 2000 – 31 March 2001

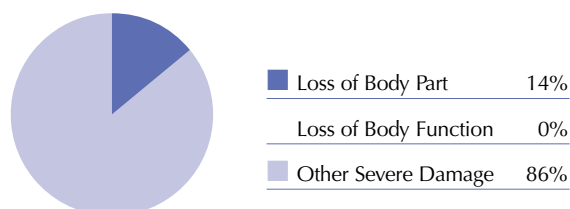


MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Twenty-eight (28) severe injuries were reported for the third quarter, bringing the total for the nine months to 90.

Survey responses indicated that there were four losses of body parts (all fingertips); no loss of body function; and 24 other severe damage which comprised fractured/broken fingers, fractured/broken legs, fractured ankles, shoulder dislocation, and burns (4).

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the third quarter of 2000-2001, survey responses show a total of 753 medical treatment injuries. There were 36 LTIs greater than 10 days recorded which is similar to the figures of 35 and 47 for the first two quarters respectively.

NB: Not all companies record medical treatment injuries and LTIs greater than 10 days. In order to improve reporting and share the task of eliminating injuries, companies are encouraged to record medical treatment injuries if they do not already do so.

SAFETY NEWS continued

MINERALS INDUSTRY RISK MANAGEMENT COURSES

The Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC) in conjunction with the University of Queensland is offering short courses and a graduate certificate in risk management, commencing in July 2001.

The short course, mainly distance-learning, would be of interest to those who wish to progress toward a mine management role, including engineers, middle managers and those working in

safety, health, environment and/or risk management areas. A course outline including specific modules, objectives and content is available from <http://www.sjfimr.uq.edu.au>

The graduate certificate is designed for minerals industry professionals who wish to have an advanced level of expertise in the area of risk management.

For further information on the graduate certificate, check the website <http://www.sjfimr.uq.edu.au> or email a.lee@epsa.uq.edu.au

SAFETY MILESTONES

The Council recognises that, despite the continuation of fatalities and injuries in the industry, there are a number of safety success stories which provide significant opportunities for industry participants to benchmark their own operations and to exchange ideas and information on safety and health issues.

This report features the recipient of a commended award at the 2000 MINEX Award presentations: Rio Tinto's Dampier Salt Limited.

RIO TINTO LIMITED DAMPIER SALT LIMITED

Type of Operation

Dampier Salt Limited (DSL) employs a workforce of around 150 personnel and is managed as an autonomous business unit within the Rio Tinto Group. The salt produced by DSL is used as feed for a range of products including caustic soda, plastics, glass, chlorine, soap, paper and water treatment. The operations cover the pumping and impoundment of seawater, brine evaporation, salt crystallisation, salt harvesting, washing and ship loading operations. Since the first shipment in 1972, the company has exported over 65 million tons.

Location

Dampier Salt is located on the coast in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Safety and Health Contact

Mr Ron Waller
Safety Superintendent
Phone: 08 9143 6828

Safety and Health Strengths

- Demonstrated strong leadership and a focus to embed safety into work practices and goals.
- A widely-stated intent to make safety an integral part of all tasks on site and use of a continuous improvement approach as a basis for reaching zero injury.
- DamSafe, a safety system created by Dampier Salt for its own needs, integrates safety and health into the strategic business plan and is communicated and monitored, reviewed and improved site-wide.
- Establishment of a set of "Golden Rules" as part of DSL's process to concentrate on lower level but high frequency incidents. This commitment started from the top level of management and is now embedded across the site.
- Risks are managed by processes including the requirement for employees and contractors to complete Job Safety Analyses prior to commencing a task.
- Dampier Salt has shown a commitment to the audit process by involving all personnel in safety management auditor training.
- Dampier Salt has introduced individual performance appraisals for all personnel which include proactive and reactive safety performance as a measure. This system is well accepted by all personnel levels and is linked to salary review.

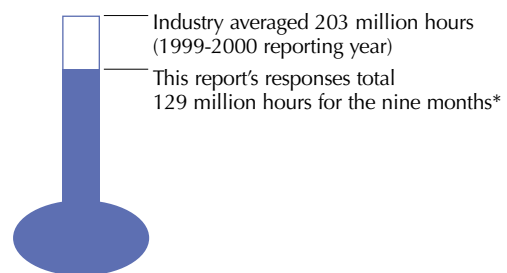
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 36 companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, the Joint Coal Board, the Australian Aluminium Council and State/Territory mines departments who supplied information for this report. Given the short timeframe within which the data has been collected and collated, the data incorporated is not necessarily reported on a consistent basis.

The Council is also aware that, for some fatalities, the circumstances at the time of the fatal incident are unclear, so that a decision cannot be made immediately as to whether the death is a workplace related fatality or is due to natural causes. In these cases, the Council is guided by the approach taken by the relevant State government authority. Any revisions in fatalities will be included in future reports as appropriate.

Note: The Joint Coal Board (JCB) advises that the data made available to the Minerals Council of Australia is not comprehensive and represents about 90 per cent of the total collection. The Minerals Council thanks the JCB for releasing this data and advises readers to take account of this factor when drawing any conclusions based on this data.

Report Coverage based on exposure hours



* When the exposure hours from the first nine months of this reporting year (2000-01) are compared with industry exposure hours for 1999-2000 pro rata, a figure of 85% coverage of this report is indicated. However, the Council believes that this figure overestimates the report's coverage. A fairer estimate would be that this report typically covers 70% of the industry.

This document can be found on the Council's website:
www.minerals.org.au

Note to readers: If you would like future issues of this quarterly document emailed to you (as a PDF document), please contact Del Da Costa at the Minerals Council of Australia on 02 6279 3644, fax 02 6279 3699 or by email d.dacosta@minerals.org.au