

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 1999 –
31 MARCH 2000

SUMMARY

- In the first nine months of the 1999-00 reporting year, a total of eleven (11) fatalities occurred in the Australian minerals industry. At the same time last year the industry had recorded seven (7) fatalities, with a total of ten (10) deaths for the 1998-99 reporting year.
- Of the eleven fatalities:
 - two occurred in open cut metalliferous;
 - five in underground metalliferous;
 - one in open cut coal; and
 - three in the underground coal sector.
- The total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first nine months of the reporting year remains at 11, from 10 at the same time last year. Underground metalliferous mining's LTIFR has risen this quarter from 7 (for the half-year) to 9, resulting in an increased total metalliferous LTIFR of seven (7) for the nine months to 31 March 2000, from a low of six (6) recorded last quarter.

SAFETY NEWS

1998-99 SAFETY AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN MINERALS INDUSTRY

The Council has released the 1998-99 Safety and Health Performance Report. The report notes that there were ten (10) fatalities in the Australian minerals industry in 1998-99. This represents an improvement over the previous year (19 deaths) but falls short of the objective of zero fatalities.

The Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the minerals industry has continued to decline from 15 in 1997-98 to a low of 12 in 1998-99.

The 1998-99 Report is available from the Minerals Council's web site at www.minerals.org.au. Hard copies may be ordered from the Public Affairs section at the Council on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or by email: info@minerals.org.au

CEO SAFETY AND HEALTH SESSION

The Council's second CEO Safety and Health Session was held on 23 March in Canberra. The 2000 session provided an opportunity for industry leaders to examine the role of safety and health leadership – particularly as it relates to safety culture – as well as to share experiences and gain new leadership skills.

2000 SAFETY AND HEALTH CULTURE CONFERENCE

In April, the Council held its first Safety and Health Culture Conference in Sydney. The event focussed on the findings of the 1999 Safety Culture Survey of the Australian minerals industry and attracted over 100 participants from all over the country. Conference presenters provided participants with practical ways to improve safety and health performance through the

creation of a positive workplace culture. Presentation topics included:

- Systems and behaviour – the need for a complementary approach
- Safety leadership – a CEO's perspective
- Establishing and maintaining a positive safety culture
- A guide to recognising safety and safe work
- Adopting the team-based approach

The conference also featured a frank and informative floor discussion on the challenging topic "Does my organisation's safety culture encourage risk-taking?" Workshops on the following day provided additional practical knowledge.

Although this conference was a one-off event, feedback from participants was so positive that the Council's Safety and Health Committee is now considering holding a safety and health conference each year.

Proceedings from the conference are still available for \$30 (\$33 from 1 July 2000). Orders can be made by contacting the Council's publications section on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or by email: info@minerals.org.au

2000 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Six applicants have been confirmed for the 2000 MINEX Awards. Evaluators are currently reviewing the submissions and scheduling site visits.

The Awards will be presented on the evening of 5 September 2000 in conjunction with the WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy's Minesafe International Conference which will be held at the Burswood Convention Centre, Perth.

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*"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



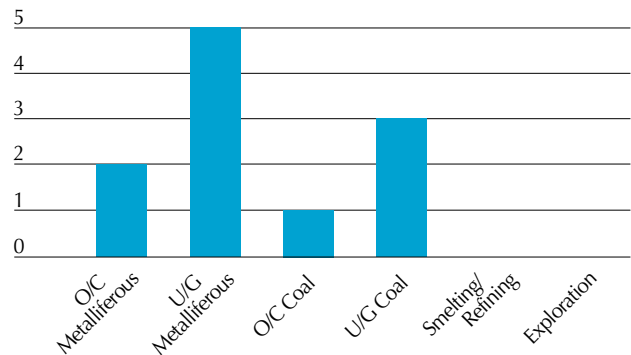
**MINERALS
COUNCIL**
OF AUSTRALIA
ACN 008 455 141

FATALITIES

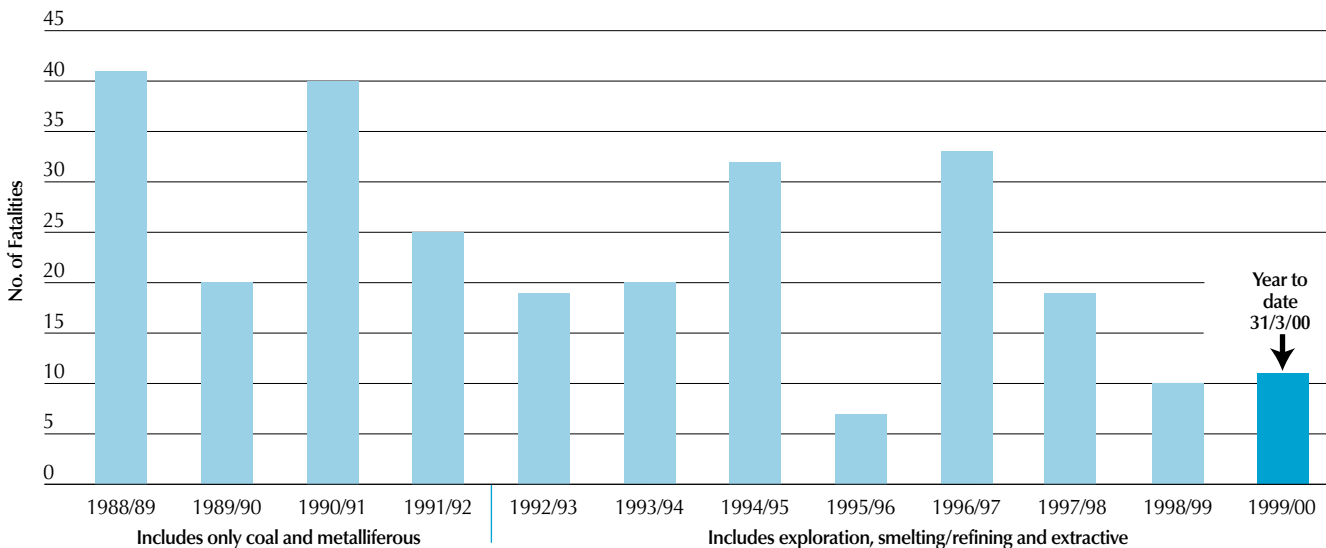
Eleven (11) fatalities were recorded in the first three quarters of 1999-00.

Of the eleven fatalities, *three* deaths occurred in underground coal mines, *one* at an open cut coal mine, *five* in underground metalliferous mines, and *two* fatalities occurred at open cut metalliferous mines. A breakdown by State shows ten fatalities for 1999-00 occurred in New South Wales mines and one in Queensland.

Fatalities by Sector 1 July 1999 to 31 March 2000



Fatalities 1988-89 – 31 March 2000



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES

There have been three fatalities this quarter.

New South Wales – OPEN CUT METALLIFEROUS

The ninth fatality for this reporting year took place at Normandy Industrial Minerals’ Cressfield Mine in NSW on 15 February 2000. Peter Davenport, aged 56, sustained fatal burns while involved in the fabrication of a new diesel fuel tank for a grader. Mr Davenport had put 45 litres of diesel fuel into the tank which was then pressurised for the purpose of locating leaks. He commenced welding using the oxyacetylene brazing technique, but failed to first release the pressure within the tank. The contents of the tank exploded, causing the tank to rupture.

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

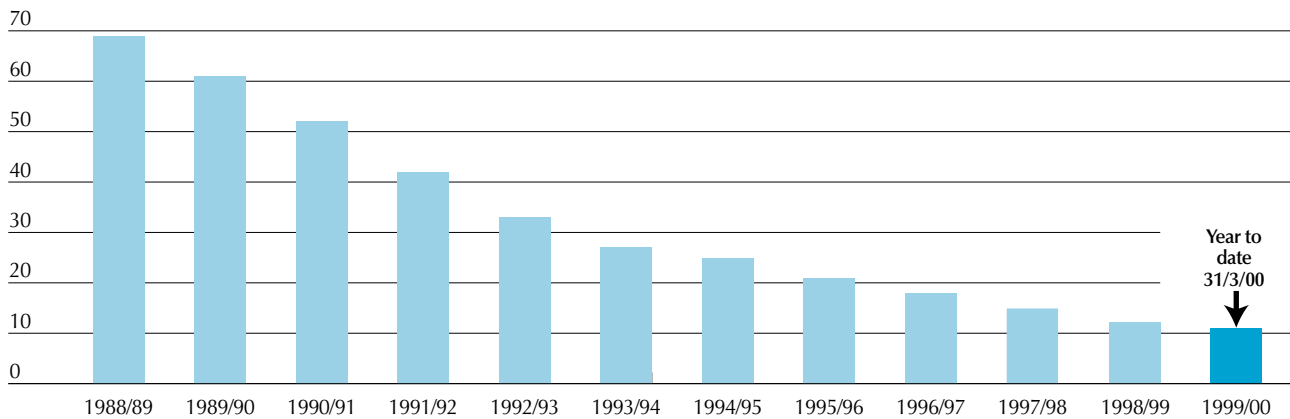
On 18 February 2000, Dr Paul Broese van Groenou, working as an environmental officer at Hillgrove mine, which belongs to the New England Antimony Mine, was located in open country in a gorge. He sustained and later died from serious injuries caused by a rock which rolled down a steep slope, striking him and causing him to fall some 20 metres down the slope.

Queensland – OPEN CUT COAL

Mr Christopher Lee died on 15 March 2000 at the Jellinbah East Mine of Jellinbah Resources Pty Ltd. Mr Lee, a maintenance worker, received fatal injuries when the tray of a haul pack, which was being lifted by a forklift, became dislodged and fell on to him.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 31 March 2000



The indicative Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) is estimated at 11 for the first three quarters of the 1999-00 year.

The LTIFR for the first nine months of 1999-00 for the metalliferous sector has risen to seven (7). Open cut metalliferous continues to remain at a low of six (6).

The open cut coal sector saw its low at a rate of eleven (11) in quarter two which in this quarter has risen slightly to twelve (12). However, underground coal remains unimproved at an LTIFR of 30.

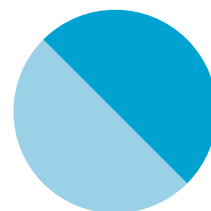
Exploration also continued its decrease from a rate of five (5) in quarter two to four (4) this quarter. This is considerably better than the sector's rate of nine (9) in quarter one.

Given this data covers only three quarters and recognising the limitations of the survey methodology, the Council would not wish to draw any findings based on this LTIFR data alone.

MOST SEVERE INJURIES

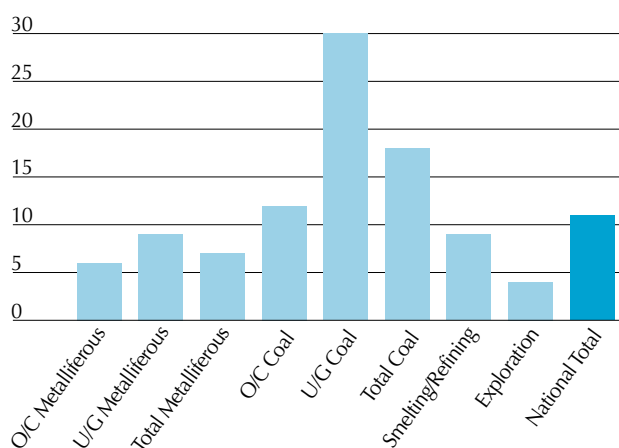
Seventeen severe injuries were reported for the first three quarters of 1999-00. Survey responses for the third quarter indicate that there were no loss of body function injuries, but two losses of body part injuries, which in both cases were due to the loss of fingers/thumb, and two cases of other severe damage: one fracture and one crushed finger.

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



Loss of Body Part	50%
Loss of Body Function	0%
Other Severe Damage	50%

LTIFR By Sector 1 July 1999 – 31 March 2000



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the first three quarters of 1999-00, a total of 1248 medical treatment injuries and 125 LTIs greater than 10 days were recorded.

For this quarter, 51 LTIs greater than 10 days occurred. Two companies recorded double-digit occurrences of lost-time injuries greater than ten days.

NB: not all companies record medical treatment injuries and LTIs greater than 10 days.

SAFETY NEWS continued

1999 MINEX AWARDS CASE STUDY

The 1999 MINEX Awards Case Study has been released and features Placer Dome Asia Pacific's Osborne Mines, which was the winner of the 1999 MINEX Awards. The case study looks at how Osborne Mines successfully implemented a safety management strategy that effectively integrates both safety systems and a behavioural approach.

In a new initiative, the 1999 case study also includes a summary of the safety and health strengths of the other operations that participated in the 1999 Awards.

The 1999 MINEX Awards Case Study is available from the Mineral Council's web site at www.minerals.org.au or from the Council's Publications section on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or by email: info@minerals.org.au. Case studies from previous years' MINEX winners are also available.

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 quarter we feature one of the winners of a Commendation Award at the 1999 MINEX Safety and Health Awards – Peabody Resources' Ravensworth/Narama Mine.

RAVENSWORTH/NARAMA MINE

Type of Operation

Ravensworth/Narama Mine is an open cut coal mine. The mine provides 6.0 million tonnes per annum to Macquarie Generation for the Bayswater and Liddell Power Stations in the Hunter Valley and employs over 267 people.

Location

The mine is located near Muswellbrook in the Hunter Valley area of New South Wales.

Safety and Health Strengths

- There is an extremely strong commitment from the parent company, Peabody Resources, with the Executive Committee determining the corporate goals and objectives for safety and health. Within these corporate guidelines business units set their own appropriate safety and health goals and objectives. This commitment is maintained at the mine by involvement of people in various safety initiatives and improvements.

- The Ravensworth/Narama Mine Safety System (RMSS) is an innovative approach combining a systematic documented management system with the communication aspects of electronic media. RMSS is further enhanced by allowing follow-up actions, from the accident/incident database, to be traced including automatic reminders of key dates to persons allocated responsibility for completion. Auditing requirements, including area and statutory inspections, are also built into the RMSS system. This approach facilitates continuous improvement.
- Performance management systems that include OHS have been used to good effect. The performance management approach applies to all employees and individual OHS performance has been part of the system since implementation.
- The company suspends operations to allow for an annual safety day. The Safety Activity Day is organised and run by the OHS committee and is an extremely successful day. The aim is to involve all employees, with certain sections focussing on safety in the home eg. preventing and surviving house fires.

Safety and Health Contacts

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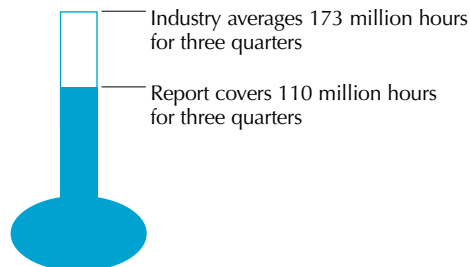
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METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 37 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 used is not necessarily reported on a consistent basis. While every effort has been made to obtain data from throughout the industry, the Council estimates (based on exposure hours) that this report covers 64 per cent of the Australian minerals industry and believes this report provides a reasonably good indication of the general safety performance trends in the industry.

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 this report as appropriate.

Report Coverage based on exposure hours



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.

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