

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2000 –
30 SEPTEMBER 2000

SUMMARY

- Three (3) fatalities were recorded in the first quarter of the 2000-2001 reporting year. At the same time last year the industry had recorded four (4) fatalities.
- Of the three fatalities, one occurred in underground metalliferous, one in underground coal and one in smelting/refining.
- The total industry LTIFR for the first quarter has dropped to an estimated 7, which is significantly lower than this time last year when the rate was 12 and also lower than the indicative total industry LTIFR for 1999-2000 of 10.
- LTIFR by sector shows improvement over the same period last year in every sector except open-cut coal (15 this quarter versus 12 in the same quarter last year).

SAFETY NEWS

2000 MINEX Safety and Health Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Tarong Coal, recipient of the 2000 MINEX Award held on 5 September in Perth.

In total, six operations were recognised at the presentation evening:

2000 MINEX AWARD

- Rio Tinto/Pacific Coal Pty Ltd – Tarong Coal

HIGHLY COMMENDED

- Alcoa World Alumina Australia – Pinjarra Alumina Refinery

COMMENDED

- Rio Tinto – Dampier Salt Limited
- Pasma Limited – Rosebery Mine

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- BHP Coal – Goonyella Riverside Mine
- Wesfarmers Group Limited – Wesfarmers Coal

All applicants have received their Evaluation Reports. These Reports set out the applicants' safety and health strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. This assessment is based on the information provided to the Evaluation Team in each applicant's detailed

submissions and gained from the site visits which were conducted in June this year.

The Council would like to thank the evaluators, judges, MINEX Reference Group and Recognition Working Group members for their efforts in ensuring the success and maintaining the integrity of the MINEX Awards.

2001 MINEX Safety and Health Excellence Awards

ARE YOU READY FOR MINEX?

An information brochure explaining the benefits of MINEX Awards participation for applicants and evaluators has been widely distributed throughout the industry. *Are you ready for MINEX?* responds to some of the concerns that may be preventing sites from entering the MINEX Awards. It is hoped a greater number of applicants will eventuate in 2001. The new brochure also seeks to encourage safety and health personnel to become MINEX evaluators who will form teams to assess the applicants. Extensive training is given to all MINEX evaluators and the experience, from feedback received, is considered to be unequalled in both the areas of professional and personal development.

*“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**

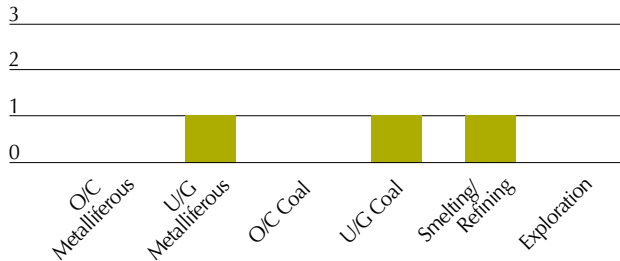
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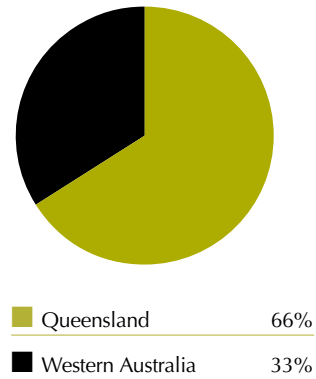
FATALITIES

- Of the three fatalities which have occurred in the first quarter:
 - one occurred in underground metalliferous;
 - one in underground coal; and
 - one in the smelting/refining sector.

Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2000 to 30 September 2000

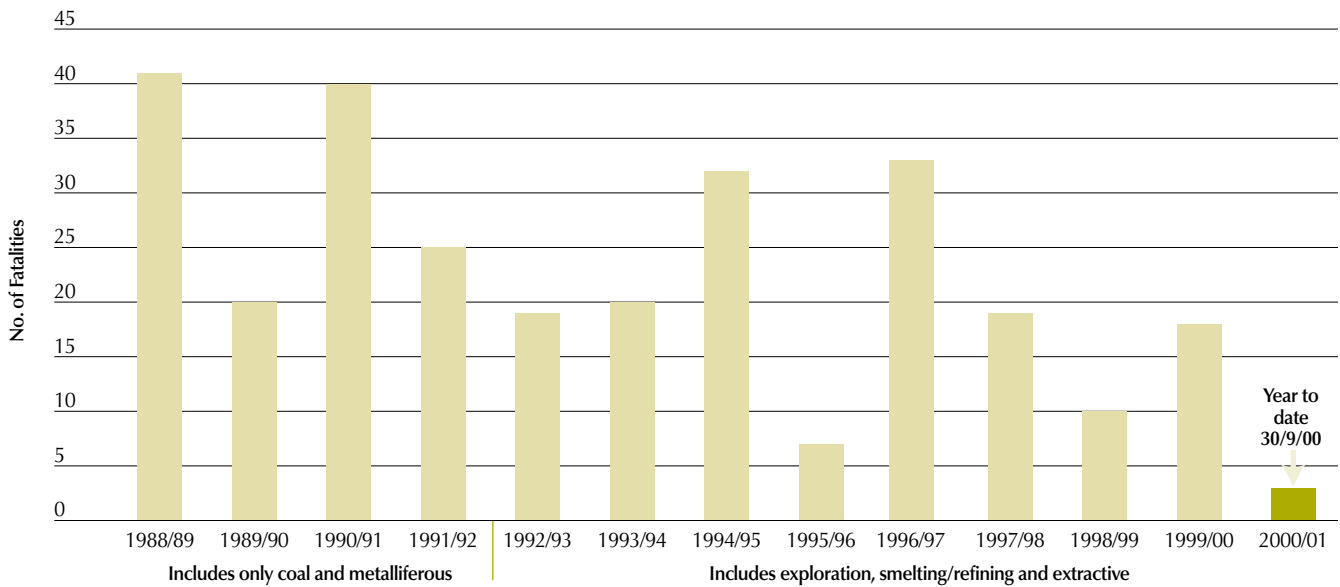


Q1 Fatalities by State



Fatalities 1988-89 – 30 September 2000

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



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES from 1 July – 30 September 2000 only

There have been three fatalities this quarter.

Queensland – SMELTING/REFINING

Mr Peter Comerford, an employee at MIM Holdings’ George Fisher project, was struck and fatally injured on 14 July when part of an assembly being lifted by a crane dislodged and fell on to him.

Queensland – UNDERGROUND COAL

Mr John Maher, a 45-year-old employee of Centennial Coal’s Cook Colliery, received fatal injuries on 30 August when a rockfall pushed him onto a continuous mining machine.

Western Australia – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

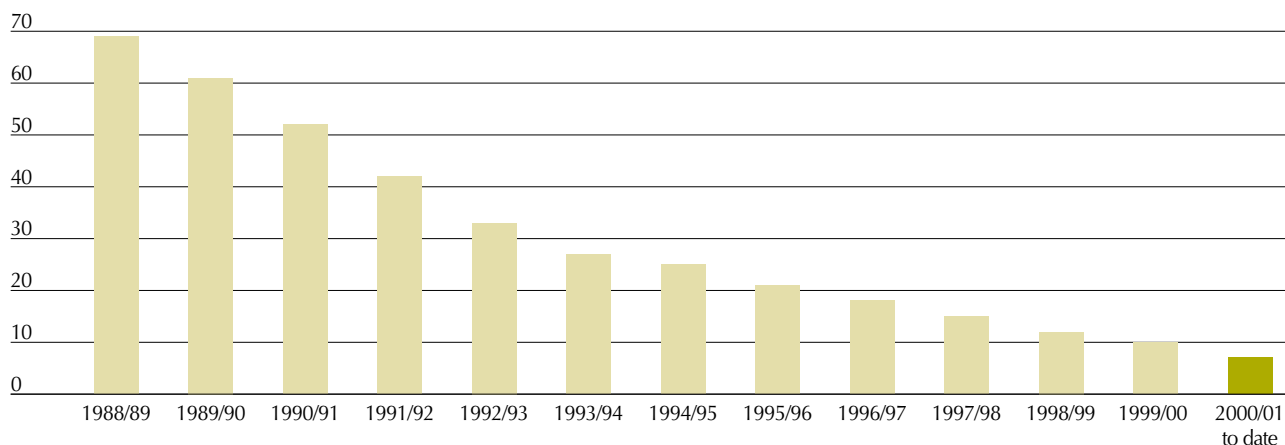
On 2 September, Mr Rodney Criddle was fatally injured by a rockfall while working underground at New Hampton Goldfield’s Big Bell mine.

DESCRIPTION OF MINING-RELATED FATALITIES

Seven mining industry employees, en route to their work location, died in an aeroplane crash.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 30 September 2000



The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first quarter is estimated at 7. This continues the downward trend shown over the past four quarters and will be significant if the trend can be sustained.

All sectors – with the exception of open-cut coal, and consequently total coal – show a decrease in LTIFR this quarter.

Underground coal, although continuing to have the highest LTIFR, has reduced its rate to 25. Open cut coal has a level of 15 which results in a total coal rate of 19.

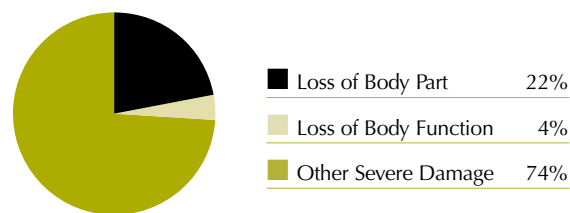
Underground metalliferous recorded the lowest LTIFR rate of all sectors for the quarter at 2. Open cut is at 5 for a total metalliferous rate of 3.

Recognising the limitations of the survey methodology, and in particular the much lower than expected LTIFR result, the Council would not wish to draw any conclusions based on this LTIFR data alone.

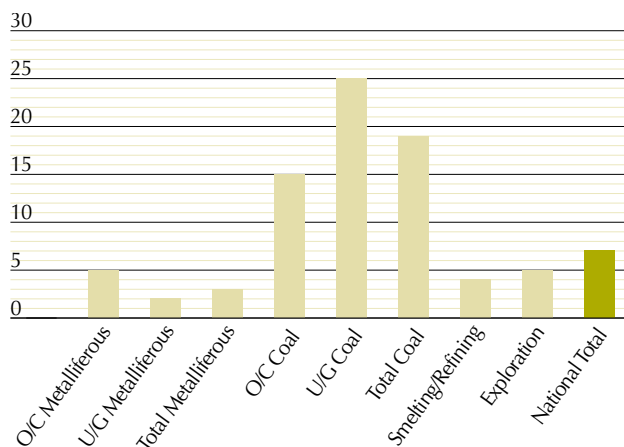
MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Twenty-three severe injuries were reported for the first quarter. Survey responses indicated that there were five amputations (finger/thumb); one loss of body function (ruptured spleen) and seventeen other severe damage (burns and fractured arms, legs, ribs, finger, shattered leg/foot). Alarming,ly, this total of 23 severe injuries is greater than the first three quarters of the last reporting year combined.

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



LTIFR By Sector 1 July 2000 – 30 September 2000



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the first quarter of 2000-2001, survey responses show a total of 335 medical treatment injuries and 35 LTIs greater than 10 days were recorded.

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

In particular, the Council is seeking greater participation by female evaluators in 2001. Evaluator training and the MINEX evaluation process, which is a team-based approach, offer work-related networking opportunities which will enhance safety and health knowledge and professionalism for line managers as well as OH&S practitioners.

For more information about participating in next year's MINEX Awards – either as an applicant or an evaluator – download *Are you ready for MINEX?* from the Council's website (www.minerals.org.au and click on Safety & Health – MINEX) or contact Del Da Costa at the Minerals Council on 02 6279 3644, fax 02 6279 3699 or email d.dacosta@minerals.org.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 the 2000 MINEX Award, Tarong Coal. The MINEX Case Study, featuring Tarong Coal, is being finalised and is expected to be available on the Council's website by the end of January 2001.

TARONG COAL

Tarong Coal is wholly owned by Pacific Coal Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto, and operates the Meandu open-cut coal mine has been in operation since 1983. It supplies steaming coal directly to the adjacent Tarong Power station and currently produces 5.3 million tonnes of washed coal annually. A permanent workforce of around 180 employees is assisted by 15 long-term contractors.

Location

The mine is located in the South Burnett region of Queensland, north-west of Brisbane.

Safety and Health Contact

Mr Bernie Pegrem
 Manager, Safety and External Relations
 Phone: 07 4160 7260

Safety and Health Strengths

- Enterprise leadership has shown a clear focus on the longer term concept of continuous improvement by adopting and driving the "Safety Pinnacle" concept.
- All personnel are involved, responsible for OHS and accountable.
- Planning and implementation of OHS management is systematic, effective and strongly supported across the site.
- Safety action plans capture control measures which are tracked on the First Priority database – an incident process flow chart which improves collection and tracking of information to support the improvement program – and are audited by the management group and safety department to ensure closure.
- The use of Dupont style behavioural safety tools (SMAT) combined with internal and external audit processes are seen as key strategic plan elements.
- Performance management is strong. Performance criteria for staff and wages is clearly defined, regularly reviewed and linked to the business plan.
- Tarong is able to demonstrate a significant improvement in OHS performance using both lagging and leading measures over the last five years.

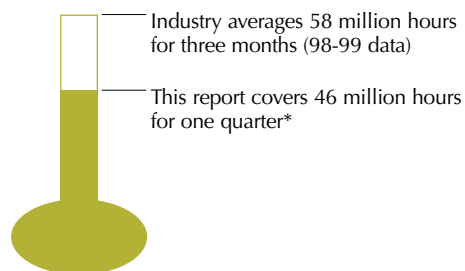
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 32 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.

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.

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



*While every effort has been made to obtain data from throughout the industry, the Council estimates (based on exposure hours) that this report covers 79 per cent of the Australian minerals industry. However, there appears to have been much greater use of contractors this quarter, resulting in unusually high exposure hours, specifically in the underground metalliferous sector. Consequently, it would be more realistic to state that this report covers approximately 62 per cent 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