

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY –
31 DECEMBER 2001

SUMMARY

- A single fatality was recorded in the second quarter of the 2001-2002 reporting year. In the same period last year the industry had recorded two fatalities.
- The fatality occurred at an open-cut metalliferous mine in WA.
- The indicative total industry LTIFR for the first half of the year is estimated at nine, which is lower than the rate of 11 as reported in the 2000-01 Safety and Health Performance Report (publication imminent) but higher than the rate of seven as indicated in the same half-year report for the preceding year.
- LTIFR by sector mostly indicates a deterioration over the same half-year period last year. The exception where improvement is evident is open-cut coal (and consequently total coal).
- The most serious increase of LTIFR appears at underground metalliferous mines.

SAFETY NEWS

2002 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

There has been an enthusiastic response to the MINEX Awards process this year with 15 applicants (the same number as last year and one less than the record) and 20 evaluators keen to desk-top assess and then visit their sites to confirm and further evaluate findings.

NATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE

Thursday 26 September – This year's national safety and health conference will have as its theme quality supervisors. The conference program promises to be dynamic and will include a panel discussion on the role of the supervisor from the management and operational perspectives.

Wednesday 25 September – Following tradition, the national Safety and Health Innovation Awards will be presented the evening before the national safety and health conference.

Both events are scheduled to take place at the Stamford Grand, Glenelg (Adelaide).

2000-01 SAFETY AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Council will release the 2000-01 Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry in April. Performance at a glance shows:

- There were 14 fatalities in the Australian minerals industry, (19 in 1999-2000).
- One miner died for every 14.2 million hours worked in the industry (11 million hours in 1999-2000).
- One miner died for every 6759 workers employed in the industry (5119 workers in 1999-2000).
- 2200 injuries occurred requiring at least one full shift absence (2294 injuries in 1999-2000).
- For each lost time injury an average of 20 days absence was recorded (18 days absence in 1999-2000).
- For every million hours worked, 11 injuries occurred which required at least one full shift absence (11 injuries in 1999-2000).

Note: When taken to two decimal places, the LTIFR has improved from 11.33 (1999-2000) to 11.09 (2000-01).

*“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

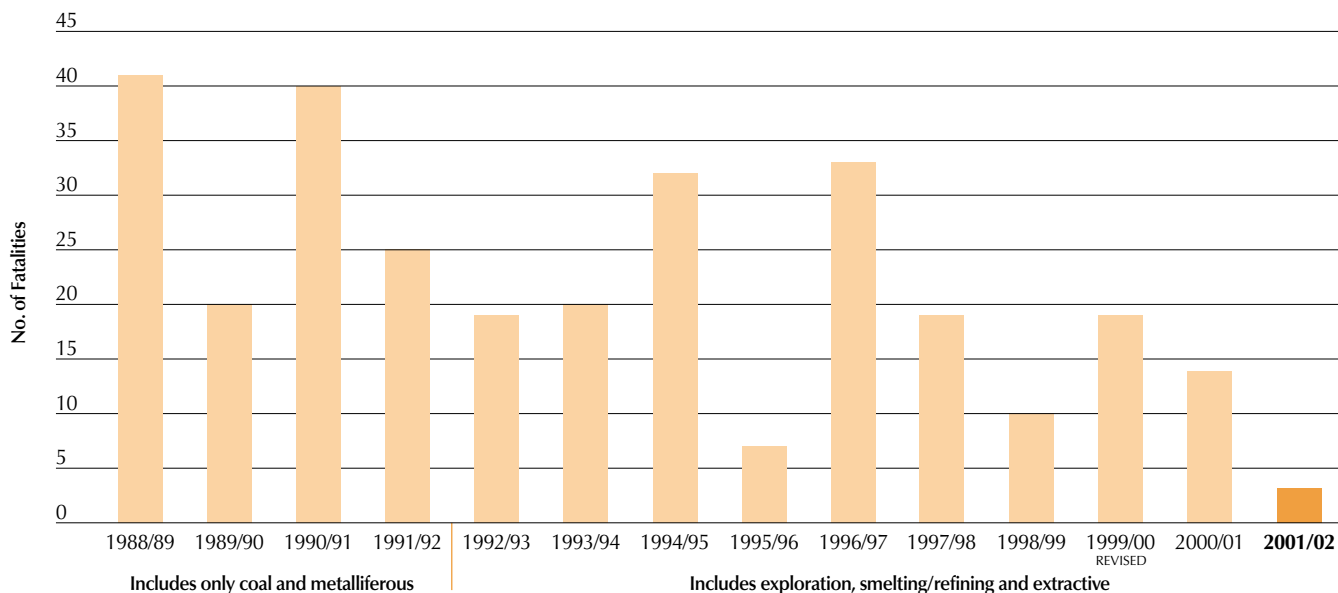
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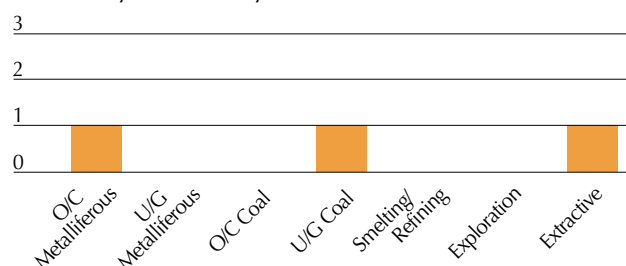
FATALITIES

Fatalities 1988-89 – 30 June 2001

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



Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2001 – 31 December 2001



2001-02 Fatalities by State



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES from 1 October – 31 December 2001 only

There has been one fatality during this second quarter:

Western Australia – **OPEN-CUT METALLIFEROUS**

On 7 November, 2001, Mr Shane Ricki Tipa aged 30, a branch manager of Coates Hire was working at Anaconda's Nickel's Murrin Murrin operation when he was thrown from a cherry picker basket while it was being loaded on to a trailer.

The WA Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources has issued a Significant Incident Report (No 112 – *Loading service vehicle onto trailer*) which can be obtained from their website at <http://notesweb.dme.wa.gov.au/exis/exisonweb.nsf>

SAFETY NEWS *continued from page 1*

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

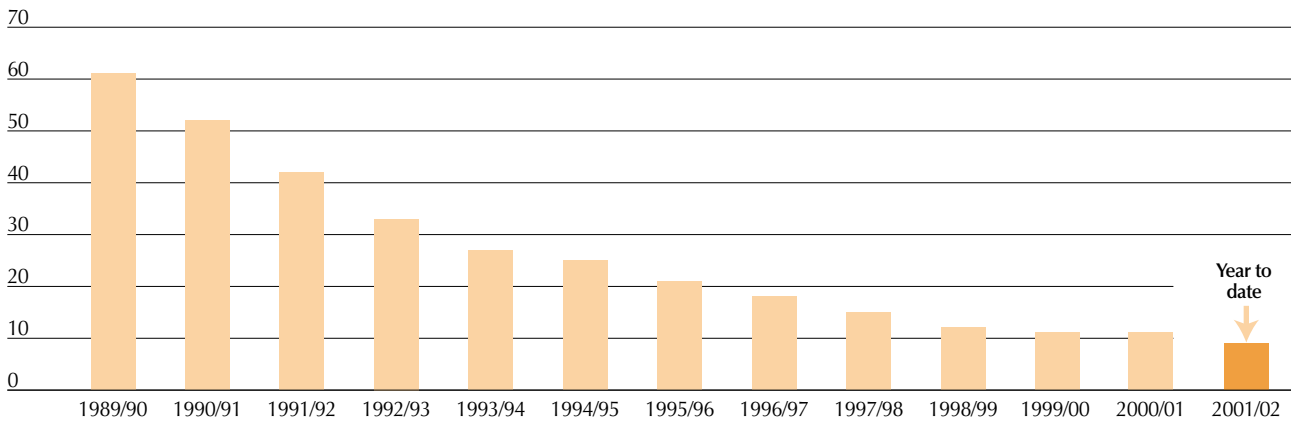
Following last year's national safety and health conference, the Council commissioned the Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC) at the University of Queensland to develop national risk assessment guidelines for the Australian minerals industry. The guidelines are to be an on-line resource

and are expected to be available from 1 July 2002. The draft guidelines will be circulated to key stakeholders shortly.

The major objective of the guidelines is to help improve the capacity of the minerals industry to achieve effective and efficient outcomes from risk assessment.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

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



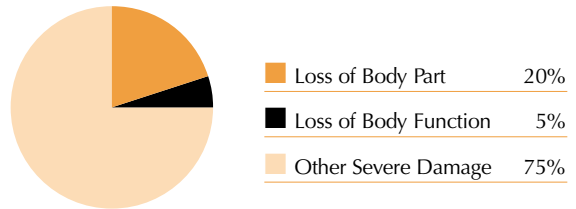
The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first six months is estimated at nine. This compares favourably with the official LTIFR of 11 for the minerals industry in the previous year. It is however a decline when compared with an LTIFR of seven, as published in the second quarterly Safety Survey Report last year.

When compared to last year's Survey for the first half-year, the LTIFR for open-cut metalliferous has remained stable at four, but for underground metalliferous the rate has significantly increased to nine (from five). The LTIFR for open-cut coal has improved to a rate of nine (from eleven) and underground coal remains stable at 25. Smelting/refining and exploration remain relatively stable at five and four respectively.

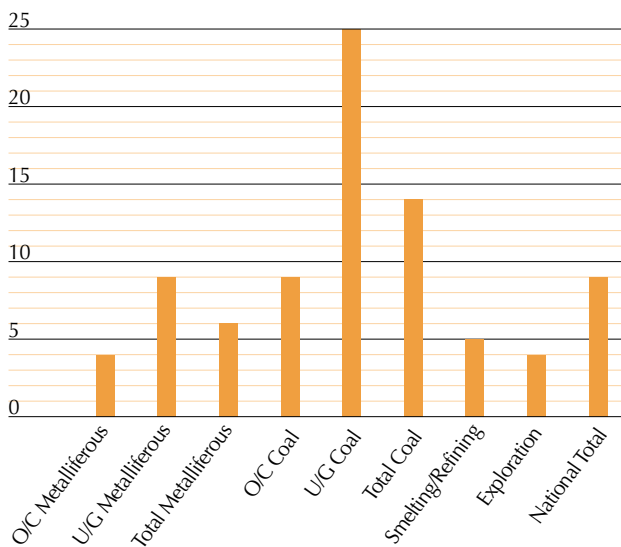
Recognising the limitations of the survey methodology, the Council would not wish to draw any conclusions based on this LTIFR data alone.

- fractures/bone breaks (10);
- lacerations (4),
- burns (3) and
- others (2) eg twisted knee, umbilical hernia.

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



LTIFR By Sector 1 July 2001 – 31 December 2001



MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Twenty-five (25) severe injuries were reported for the second quarter.

Survey responses indicated that there were five losses of body parts (all finger/thumb amputations); one loss of body function (twisted shoulder); and 19 other severe damage which comprised:

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the second quarter of 2001-2002 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 641 medical treatment injuries. For the same quarter last year, the figure stood at 657 medical treatment injuries.

There were 28 LTIs greater than 10 days recorded which is slightly lower than the range of 35-47 established for each of the four quarters last reporting year.

TOTAL RECORDABLE INJURIES

As the Australian minerals industry moves towards its vision of an industry free of fatalities, injuries and diseases, traditional outcome measures, such as fatalities and lost time injuries and their frequency rates, are declining. Whilst this news is positive for the industry, a set of consistently low numbers is not a statistically satisfactory measurement of the industry safety and health performance.

The industry is well aware of the shortcomings of the LTIFR measure and is working in a voluntary and proactive way to improve safety and health performance by reporting broader outcomes measures. One such is the proposed Total Recordable Injuries (TRI) which includes fatalities, lost time injuries and medical treatment cases, but excludes first aid cases. Commencing with the next request for data from member companies and others, the Safety Survey Report aims to report on this broader outcomes measure.

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 a highly commended award given to Kanowna Belle in last year's MINEX Awards.

AURION GOLD LIMITED (formerly Delta Gold Limited)

KANOWNA BELLE GOLD MINE

Type of Operation

Kanowna Belle Gold Mines is wholly owned and operated by Delta Gold after Delta purchased a 50% interest previously held by North Limited in 1999. Annual underground production at the Kanowna Belle site is 1.3 million tonnes of ore each year.

Kanowna Belle commenced operations in 1993 as an open cut mine and began gold production in November of that year. A roaster was commissioned in December 1994 for the treatment of refractory sulphide concentrates. Underground production commenced in July 1998. Recently mineralisation has been drilled to more than a kilometre below the surface and underground production is expected to continue to 2010.

Location

The operation is located 18 km north-east of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and 600 km east of Perth, WA.

Safety and Health Contact

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Safety and Health Strengths

- The parent company has a pictorial representation of the corporate strategic plan (the *Game Plan*) to create a memorable vision which enhances employee, contractor and community understanding.
- The site management team has demonstrated strong leadership for health and safety by developing a strategic plan with measurable outcomes that are underpinned by individual accountabilities and recognition of safety achievements at both team and individual levels.
- National training standards have been adopted and Kanowna Belle is seen to be a leader in the area of training and development of its people.
- A positive workplace safety culture has been developed through accountability, leadership and involvement.
- In developing a safety culture at the operation, Kanowna Belle has included the involvement of contractors, families and the community.

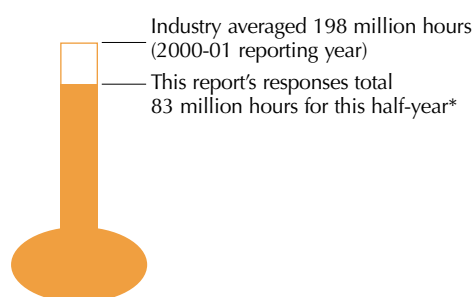
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank all reporting companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, Coal Services Pty Ltd (formerly known as Joint Coal Board) and the Australian Aluminium Council 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: Coal Services Pty Ltd (formerly known as the Joint Coal Board) 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 Coal Services 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 for this reporting year (2001-02) are compared with official industry exposure hours for 2000-01, a figure of 83% coverage in this report is indicated. However, this figure may overestimate the report's coverage.

This document can be found on the Council's website:
www.minerals.org.au (click on *Safety and Health*)

Note to readers: If you would like future issues of this quarterly document emailed directly 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