

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 1999 –
30 SEPTEMBER 1999

SUMMARY

- Four (4) fatalities were recorded in the first quarter of the 1999-00 reporting year. At the same time last year the industry had also recorded four (4) fatalities.
- Of the four fatalities, three occurred in underground coal mines and one in the open cut metalliferous sector. All four fatalities occurred in New South Wales.
- The total industry LTIFR for the first quarter is estimated at 12, which is slightly higher than this time last year when the rate was 11.
- The 1999 MINEX Safety and Health Excellence Awards were held in Launceston, Tasmania on 23 September 1999. This year's winner was Placer Dome Asia Pacific's Osborne Mines which is located in Queensland.

SAFETY NEWS

1999 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to those minerals sites recognised at the 1999 MINEX Awards. They were:

1999 MINEX Award

Placer Dome Asia Pacific – Osborne Mines

Commendation

Newcrest Mining Ltd – Cadia Hill Gold Mine

Commendation

North Limited – Northparkes Mines

Commendation

Normandy Mining Ltd – Normandy Kaltails

Commendation

Peabody Resources – Ravensworth/Narama Mine

Commendation

Thiess Contractors – Mt Owen Mine

The Council would also like to thank the following Evaluators and Judges for their efforts in ensuring the success and maintaining the integrity of the 1999 MINEX Awards.

1999 MINEX AWARDS EVALUATORS

Mike Boyle, Nabalco Pty Ltd

Stewart Brown, Queensland Department of Mines and Energy

Arthur Deacon, Rio Tinto Limited – Tarong Coal

Rob Filmer, Worsley Alumina Refinery

Peter Forbes, Shell Coal – Drayton Coal

Derek Griffiths, Rio Tinto Limited

Rawden Hill, SAFEmap

Shane Innes, North Limited – Northparkes Mines

Stephen Klyen, formerly of WMC Resources Ltd

Mick Nash, Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd

Robert Oliver, NSW Minerals Council

Corrie Pitzer, SAFEmap

Tony Philo, Normandy Mining Limited –

Mt Leyshon Gold Mines

Mike Simons, North Limited – ERA Ranger Mine

Craig Steele, Nabalco Pty Ltd

JUDGES

Bob Humphris, Peabody Resources Limited

Hugh Morgan, WMC Limited

Alan Rowe, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission

David Stewart, Pasminco Limited

Dick Wells, Minerals Council of Australia

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 submission and gained from the site visits which were conducted in June 1999.

*“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

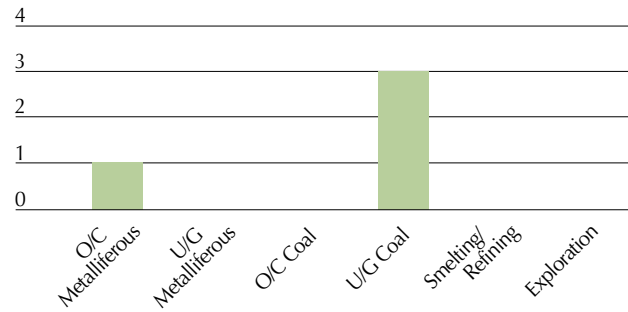
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FATALITIES

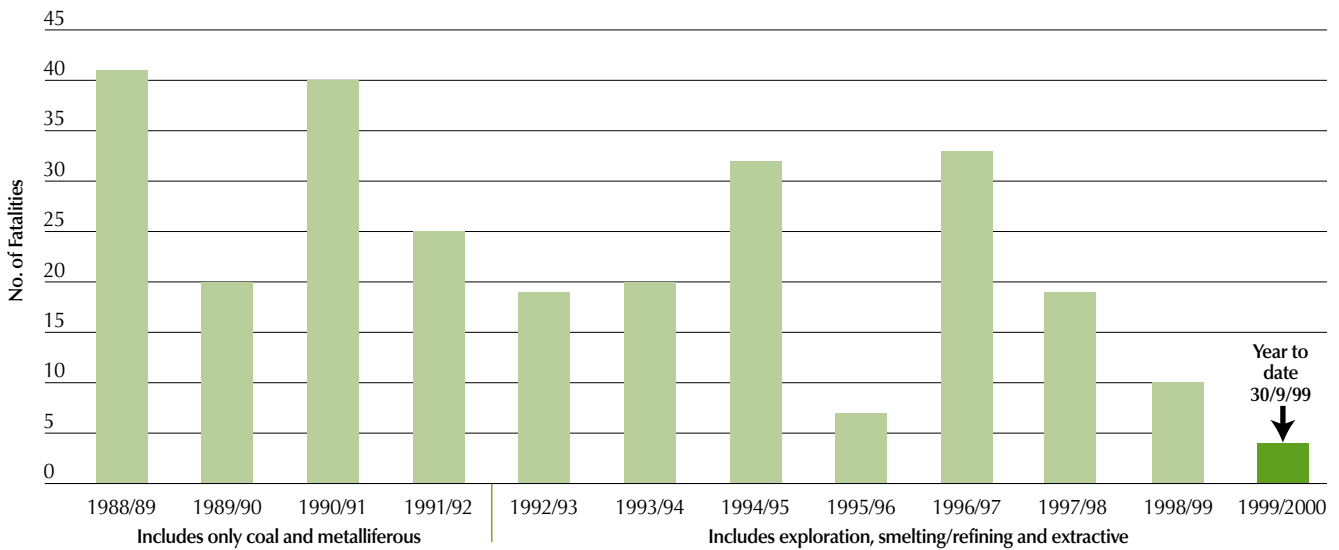
Four (4) fatalities were recorded in the first quarter of 1999-00.

The majority of the fatalities occurred in underground mining operations, with three deaths in the underground coal sector and one in the open cut metalliferous sector.

Fatalities by Sector 1 July 1999 to 30 September 1999



Fatalities 1988 – 30 September 1999



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES FOR FIRST QUARTER ONLY

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND COAL

■ Mr Christopher Elliott was fatally injured when crushed by machinery while doing repair work underground.

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND COAL

■ Mr David Hill drowned after falling into a 70m deep underground water-filled sump while conducting maintenance of a pump.

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND COAL

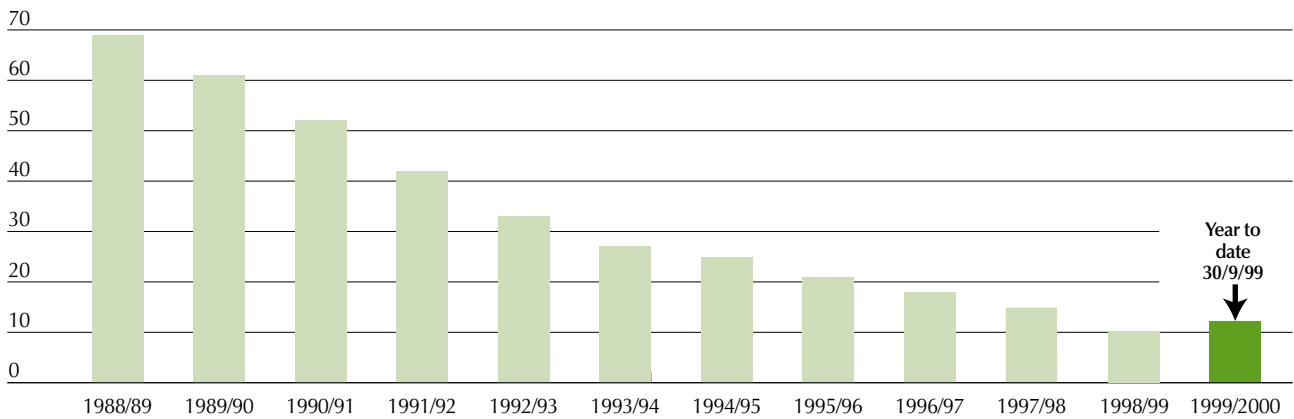
■ A miner was fatally injured when he became trapped between a roof bolting machine and the mine wall.

New South Wales – OPEN-CUT METALLIFEROUS

■ A preschool age child was fatally injured by a haulage truck.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988/89 – 30 September 1999



The indicative Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) figure is estimated at 12 for the first quarter.

Once again the LTIFR for underground coal is significantly higher (29) than that for other sectors. Underground metalliferous recorded the lowest LTIFR at 6.

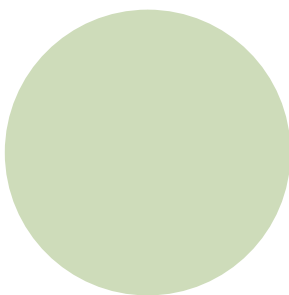
All coal continues to have a consistent rate of around 19.

Given this data covers only one quarter 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

Seven severe injuries were reported for the first quarter of 1999-00. Survey responses indicated that none of these were loss of body function or body part injuries. The seven reported severe injuries fell into the other severe damage category and included a fractured leg, broken ankle, dislocated fingers and acid burns.

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries

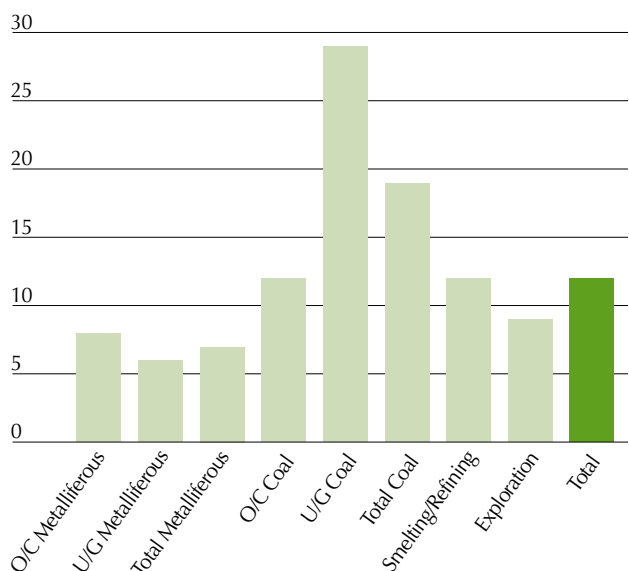


Loss of Body Part	0%
Loss of Body Function	0%
Other Severe Damage	100%

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the first quarter of 1999-00 a total of 378 medical treatment injuries and 30 LTIs greater than 10 days were recorded. Please note that not all companies record MTIs and LTIs greater than 10 days.

LTIFR By Sector 1 July 1999 – 30 September 1999



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 the winner of the 1999 MINEX Safety and Health Award – Osborne Mines.

OSBORNE MINES

Osborne Mines is a wholly owned subsidiary of Placer Dome Asia Pacific. The mine is a copper/gold mine located in north west Queensland, 200 kilometres south-east of Mount Isa. Osborne employs around 230 people, including business partners (contractors), who work a nine-days-on/ five-days-off roster, flying in and out of Townsville.

KEY SAFETY AND HEALTH STRENGTHS

A key element of Osborne’s operating philosophy since day one has been an integrated safety and production culture. Osborne’s culture is built on communication, teamwork and ownership, and the associated accountabilities and responsibilities. OH&S systems are integrated into all aspects of the operations and are developed by the people who use the system, a process that generates a strong sense of ownership. Everyone on site is responsible for their own safety and the safety of others. Systems and culture are seen as living things that will never be “finished”, but will continue to grow and change to meet needs.

Osborne previously won the MINEX Award in 1996. Since then the operation has implemented the following programs:

- WE CARE – a system that integrates safety and environmental management, and sets out procedures for safe work, workplace inspections, and hazard identification and rectification. These processes are the responsibility of all people at Osborne.
- Business Units – these units have increased the knowledge of, and decision making in, the business by all employees. Fourteen business units have been established at the mine with a customer and profitability focus. They set business, production and performance goals that incorporate OH&S considerations.
- “Holding to Account” training – this training provides the tools to allow issues to be raised in teams and conflicts to be readily resolved. Osborne people have been trained to facilitate the program on site, and everyone, including representatives of core business partners, are progressively completing the training.

Osborne’s strategy for reaching its goals of an incident free workplace and being recognised as the leading best-practice safety performer in the industry, is based on the maintenance of a work environment where people are encouraged to actively contribute to improving work practices, work conditions and work standards.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The above outline provides only a brief description of some of the safety and health features in place at Osborne Mines. For further information about the above initiatives and other safety and health activities at Osborne Mines, you should contact:

Mr Tony Horton

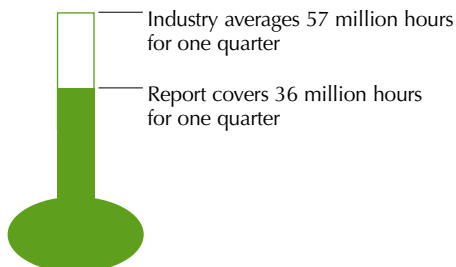
Safety Systems Coordinator, Osborne Mines
Phone: (07) 4769 2600

METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 28 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 time frame 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 63 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 on 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.