

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2002 –
30 SEPTEMBER 2002

SUMMARY

- Two (2) fatalities were recorded in the first quarter of the 2002-2003 reporting year – the same number recorded for that period last year.
- One fatality occurred at an open-cut metalliferous mine (tourist mine) in Queensland and one was recorded at an open-cut metalliferous mine in WA.
- The indicative total industry LTIFR for the first quarter is estimated at 6, which is lower than the rate of eight estimated in this report last year.
- LTIFR by sector indicates a significant improvement in both the underground coal and underground metalliferous sectors.

SAFETY NEWS

2002 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to Century Mine, recipient of the 2002 MINEX Award! The presentation dinner was held on 2 September in Terrigal, NSW in conjunction with MCA's Executive Committee meeting and the NSW Minerals Council's *Safe Mining – Healthy Business* conference.

In total, six operations were recognised at this year's ceremony:

2002 MINEX Award

- Pasmenco Limited – Century Mine

For excellence in implementing and integrating across the whole site highly-committed leadership and comprehensive safety and health management systems embedded in a successful culture of continuous improvement.

Highly Commended

- Pacific Coal – Kestrel Coal Mine

In recognition of outstanding fully-integrated safety and health management systems at a site where recruitment policies emphasise the importance of a positive safety culture, and in further recognition of the significant behavioural change achieved over the past three years.

Commended

- Coal & Allied – Mt Thorley Operations

In recognition of demonstrated workforce involvement and commitment to the safety and health management at site incorporating effective continuous improvement processes.

- BHP Billiton Iron Ore – Mt Whaleback Operation

In recognition of an impressive safety performance attributed to leading-edge safety and health management systems incorporating continuous

improvement through the engagement and empowerment of a large workforce.

Acknowledgment

- Sons of Gwalia – Greenbushes Operations

In recognition of the commitment of all staff in implementing a robust safety and health management system and a demonstrated site-wide capacity to incorporate innovative strategies to shape behaviours to improve safety and health outcomes.

- BHP Billiton, Illawarra Coal – Appin Colliery

In recognition of a strong safety improvement culture and the application of high safety standards, particularly in the area of critical risk management.

All applicants have received their evaluation reports. As a result of the submissions and site visits, these reports set out the applicant's safety and health strengths as well as opportunities for improvement.

The MCA would like to thank this year's applicants, evaluators, judges, MINEX Reference Group and Recognition Working Group members for their efforts in demonstrating their commitment towards continuous improvement of safety and health resulting in the continued success of the MINEX Awards.

MINEX IN 2003

Concurrently with this report, an information leaflet *Are you ready for MINEX?* is being widely distributed throughout the industry. The brochure encourages sites to become MINEX applicants in 2003 and explains the benefits of participation. *Are you ready for MINEX?* also seeks to encourage line managers as well as safety and health personnel to become MINEX evaluators.

*“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

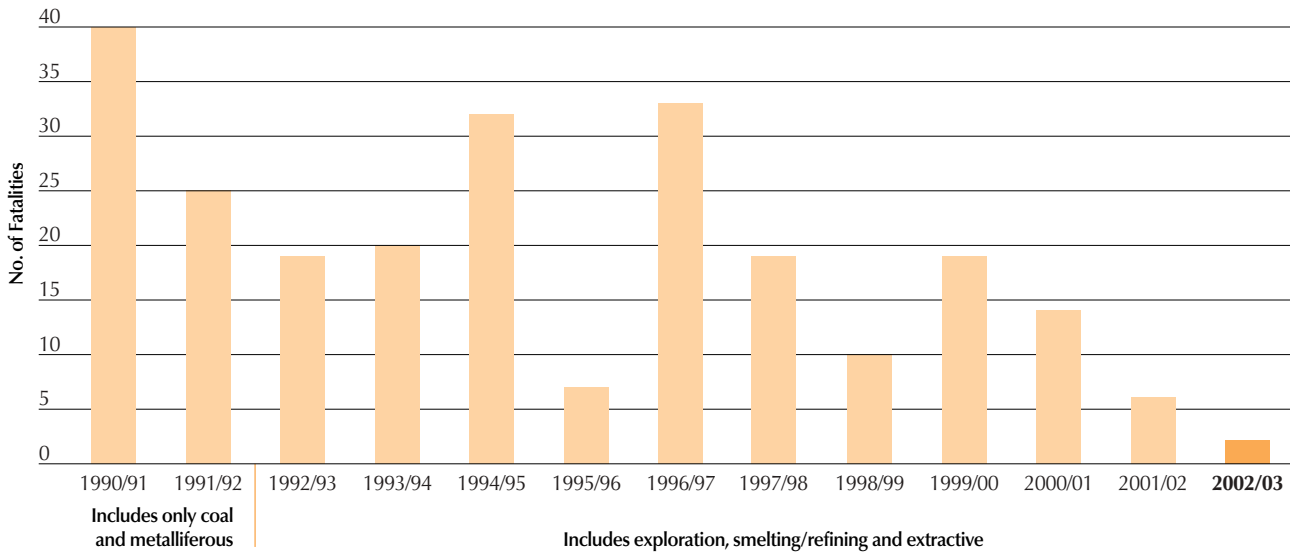
www.minerals.org.au

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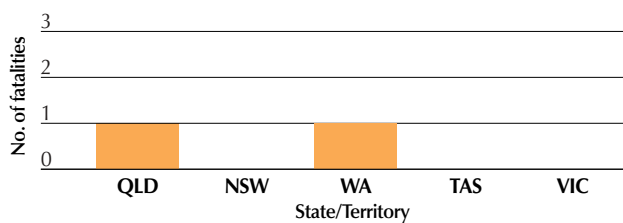
FATALITIES

Fatalities 1990-91 – 30 September 2002

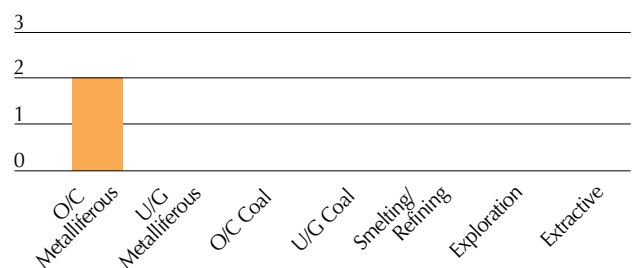
Information contained in the chart prior to 1992 is an estimation only.



Q1 2002–03 Fatalities by State



Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2002 – 30 September 2002



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES (1 July – 30 September 2002)

There have been two fatalities during the first quarter:

Queensland – **OPEN-CUT METALLIFEROUS**

An eight-year-old boy was fatally injured in a rockfall. Kelvin Hill was a member of a tourist group visiting the separate fossicking area of an operating mine. He was struck by a rock which fell approximately one metre from a near vertical rock face causing severe internal and external injuries.

Note: The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines has subsequently introduced more stringent procedures to apply to “tourist mines”.

Western Australia – **OPEN-CUT METALLIFEROUS**

Mr Daniel Comrie, an employee of Roche Mining, was driving a truck at WMC’s Mt Keith operation when a significant section of a main ramp accessing the lower section of the pit collapsed and the truck fell over the ramp edge. The truck rolled approximately 50 metres down the pit slope and came to rest completely submerged in a sump at the bottom of the slope.

SAFETY NEWS *continued from page 1*

Full details about the MINEX participation process are available in the publications *What is MINEX?* and *How do I apply for MINEX?* which will both be updated and available in hard copy format in mid-December. Copies may also be downloaded from the MCA website at that time: www.minerals.org.au

CENTURY MINE MINEX CASE STUDY

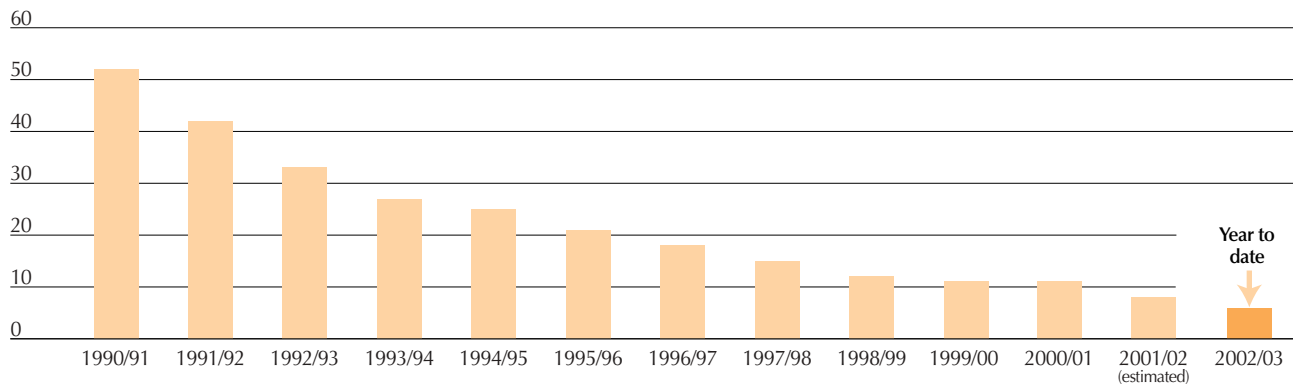
Through the MINEX Awards, the MCA seeks to drive the improvement of the industry’s safety and health performance by

identifying and promoting best practice. To effectively share this information throughout the industry, the MCA produces and publishes case studies of MINEX Award recipients.

The case study featuring Century Mine will also be available mid-January and will not only identify best practice safety and health in the industry but will assist sites to outline their submission for MINEX participation in 2003.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1990-91 – 30 September 2002



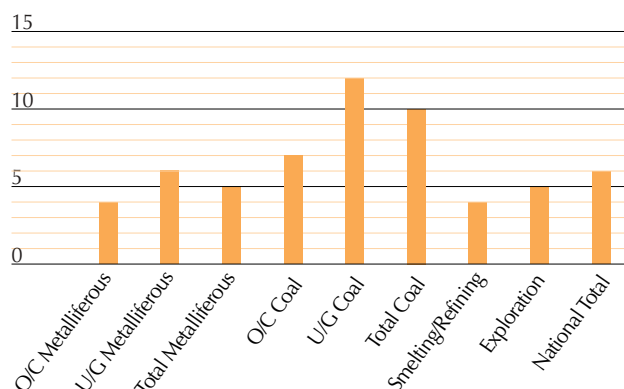
The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first quarter is estimated at six. This compares favourably with the LTIFR of eight for the first quarter of the previous year.

When compared to last year's first quarter survey, there are two sectors showing improvement. The most significant improvement is seen in the LTIFR for underground coal which has halved from a rate of 25 to 12. The other sector showing improvement is underground metalliferous where the rate has declined from 10 to six.

As a result of these declines in LTIFR, the total coal and total metalliferous rates for the first quarter have improved accordingly to 10 (from 13 the previous year) and five (from six) respectively. Other sectors have remained stable.

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

LTIFR by Sector 1 July 2002 – 30 September 2002



MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Eighteen severe injuries (31 for the same period last year) were reported for the first quarter.

Survey responses indicated that there was one loss of body part (finger amputation); no loss of body function; and seventeen other severe damage which comprised fractures (12), burns (2), crush injuries (1), and two others comprising lacerations and fractured arm, and partial amputation of foot with reattachment.

MEDICAL TREATMENT INJURIES

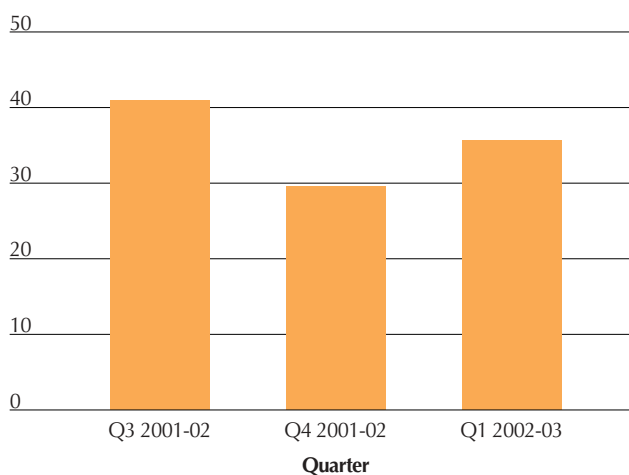
For the first quarter of the 2002-2003 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 791 medical treatment injuries. For the same quarter last year, the figure stood at 842.

TOTAL RECORDABLE INJURIES

The industry is working in a voluntary and proactive way to improve safety and health performance by reporting broader outcomes measures and in particular Total Recordable Injuries (TRIs) which includes fatalities, lost time injuries, restricted work cases and medical treatment cases.

A total of 1469 TRIs have been reported this quarter which equates to an indicative TRIFR of 35.7

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)



It is difficult to draw any conclusions based on this data.

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 2002 MINEX Award – Pasminco Century Mine.

PASMINCO LIMITED

CENTURY MINE

Type of Operation

Pasminco Century mine is one of the largest zinc mines in the world producing 880,000 tonnes of zinc concentrate and 70,000 tonnes of lead concentrate annually. Operations began in September 1999 and Century Mine currently has a permanent work force of 576. Mining zinc, lead and silver, the open-cut mine is expected to operate until 2018.

At the site lead and zinc-bearing ore is extracted by conventional means and transported to a stockpile which feeds a concentrator plant. The plant separates the lead and zinc and prepares it for transportation along a 304-kilometre pipeline to Karumba where it is loaded on to the transfer vessel from where it is shipped 45 km north to the anchored cargo vessel ready for export.

Location

The Century open-cut mine is located at Lawn Hill, 250 km north-east of Mt. Isa. The port facility is located at Karumba, 300 km north east of Lawn Hill on the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Safety and health contact

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Safety and health strengths

- Adoption of the *One Century* safety and health strategy to unite the entire Pasminco workforce in ensuring standardisation of safety and health outcomes.
- A demonstrated high level utilisation of hazard recognition and risk assessment management strategies.
- Implementation of meeting strategies to review and assign safety ratings for the previous day or shift and to establish the safety and health climate for the oncoming day/shift.
- A demonstrated commitment by management to employee health and wellness especially the development of fatigue management strategies.
- Regular review of the *One Century* safety and health strategy to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in every facet of the site's systems.

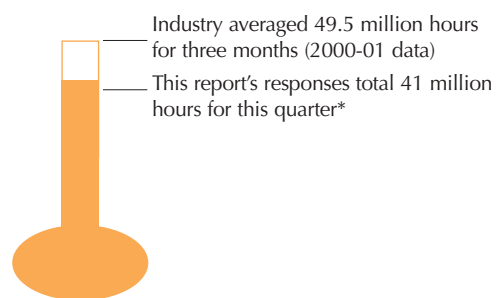
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The MCA would like to thank all reporting companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, Coal Services, 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 MCA 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 MCA 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 Service Pty Ltd (former known as the Joint Coal Board) advises that the data made available to the Minerals Council of Australia is not comprehensive and represents less than 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 quarter are compared with official industry exposure hours for the last available year (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 MCA 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