

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2002 –
31 DECEMBER 2002

SUMMARY

- Three (3) fatalities were recorded in the second quarter of the 2002-2003 reporting year. In the same period last reporting year one fatality had been recorded; in the prior year's quarter, two fatalities had been recorded.
- The indicative total industry LTIFR for the first half of the year is estimated at six which is lower than the rate of nine as reported in the *2001-02 Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry* (to be published shortly).
- Two fatalities occurred in the underground metalliferous sector (NSW and Qld) and one in the extractives sector (Victoria).
- LTIFR by sector indicates that, compared to the first quarter, Total Metalliferous and Total Coal rates remain the same (five and ten respectively) although the underground component of each has deteriorated slightly. When compared to the first six months of last reporting year, an improvement is seen in almost every sector.

SAFETY NEWS

2003 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Due to a later-than-usual MINEX Awards presentation evening this year (13 October at Minesafe International in Perth), the deadline for receipt of the MINEX Application Form for minesites to participate in the MINEX process has been deferred to 31 March, 2003. This is also the date for nominations to be received for intending evaluators – line and general managers are especially welcome. Applications from minesites nationwide – large and small – are keenly sought. For further information, see the MINEX Information Kit publications on the MCA website: www.minerals.org.au (click on *Safety and Health – MINEX Awards*) or go direct to: http://www.minerals.org.au/safety_health/minex_awards_info_kit.htm

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 is now available electronically from the website or in hard copy format. The case study not only outlines leading safety and health practice in the industry but would also assist sites to draft their submission for MINEX participation.

SAFETY & HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT 2001-02

The latest *Safety & Health Performance Report for the Australian Minerals Industry* for the reporting year 2001-02 is expected to be released in April.

Of note are the following:

- The national lost time injury frequency rate for the total industry has decreased to nine (from eleven).
- All sectors (except extractives) have shown improvement over the previous year's LTIFR.
- All States (except South Australia) show an improved LTIFR over 2000-01.

continued on page 2

“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

SAFETY NEWS *continued from page 1***NOHSC NATIONAL OHS STRATEGY**

The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission has accepted responsibility for the development and implementation of the National OHS Strategy. The National Targets comprise:

- Sustain a significant, continual reduction in the incidence of work-related fatalities with a reduction of at least 20% by June 2012 (with a reduction of 10% being achieved by June 2007); and
- Reduce the incident of workplace injury by at least 40% by June 2012 (with a reduction of 20% being achieved by June 2007).

Five national priorities have been identified to bring about short and long-term OHS improvements as well as longer-term cultural change:

1. Reduce high incidence/severity risks;
2. Develop the capacity of business operators and workers to manage OHS effectively;
3. Prevent occupational disease more effectively;
4. Eliminate hazards at the design stage; and
5. Strengthen the capacity of government to influence OHS outcomes.

In addition, there are nine Areas Requiring National Action. For further details visit the NOHSC website:

www.nohsc.gov.au/nationalstrategy

STATE SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCES

Queensland Mining Industry Health & Safety Conference 2003 – 3-6 August, Jupiter's Townsville Hotel and Casino, Townsville. Paper and Innovation abstracts (100-200 words) requested by 17 April. Contact: safeconf@qmc.com.au

NSW Mining Industry Safe Mining – Health Business conference: 24-26 August 2003 at the Novotel and Ibis hotels, Homebush. Abstracts up to 500 words due 23 May. Contact NSW Minerals Council by email info@nswmin.com.au

Minesafe International 2003: 12-15 October 2003, Burswood International Resort, Perth WA. The MINEX Awards presentation dinner will feature during the Minesafe conference on Monday 13 October. Contact: promaco@promaco.com.au

SAFETY IMPROVEMENT TARGETS (UK)

The UK Health and Safety Commission (HSC) recently announced ten-year health and safety targets for UK workplaces. This follows the release of their annual health and safety statistics for 2001-02 (April – March) which showed a 15 per cent decrease in workplace fatal injuries in 2001-02 compared with 2000-01.

The targets that have been set for 2009-10 comprise:

- To reduce the number of working days lost due to work-related injury and ill-health by 30%;
- To reduce the incident rate of work-related ill-health by 20%; and

- A 10% reduction in work-related fatalities and serious injuries.

The Commission expects that half these targets should be reached by 2004-05.

The annual UK statistics showed the following as the most common workplace accidents in 2001-02:

- trips and falls
- being hit by a flying/moving object
- falls from heights
- vehicular accidents

These form part of the HSC's eight priority areas. Other priority areas include work-related stress, musculoskeletal disorders, agriculture and health services.

Further information on these targets can be found at the Health and Safety Executive website: www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/reports

NATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INNOVATION AWARDS

The National Safety and Health Innovation Awards were designed to foster the development of innovative solutions everyday safety and health issues. In presenting such awards, the MCA aims to recognise the positive safety and health initiatives of companies, encourage the exchange of innovative ideas and provide an additional focus for safety and health promotion within the Australian minerals industry.

Entries are now being accepted by the MCA for this year's Innovation Awards. Any company or site who received recognition at any State/Territory Innovation Awards can be nominated. Those States who have not conducted Awards may nominate relevant innovations from their State/Territory.

To promote information sharing a booklet profiling all the nominated innovations will be produced. Following the Awards night, this booklet will be distributed throughout the industry. Previous Innovation Profiles booklets are available on the Council's website.



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES (1 October – 31 December 2002)

The three fatalities which occurred during the second quarter were as follows:

Victoria – EXTRACTIVE

On 28 November 2002, a drill operator, aged 42, was fatally injured at a quarry near Carisbrook. He was found entangled in a drill steel.

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

On 28 November 2002, Mr Darren Andrew, 31, an employee at Perilya's Broken Hill mine, was crushed between a shaft cage and a platform and died instantly.

Queensland – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

On 13 December 2002, Graham Fogarty, a 36-year-old miner employed by Brandrill and working at Thalanga Copper Mines' Highway Reward mine was fatally injured when caught in the articulation point of a large underground loader at the mine surface/portal.

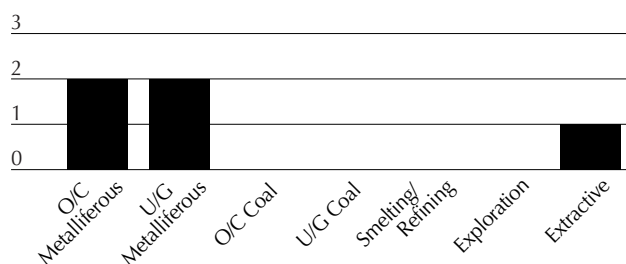
MINERALS INDUSTRY-RELATED FATALITIES (1 October – 31 December 2002)

On 9 October 2002, a Western Metals contractor was killed when the four-wheel drive vehicle in which he was a passenger hit a cow and rolled about 70 km east of Fitzroy Crossing. Two other contractors were also in the vehicle and were taken

to hospital. The contractors at Western Metals' Pillar mine were returning to their camp at Cadjebut when the accident occurred. An investigation is being undertaken.

FATALITY STATISTICS

Fatalities by sector 1 July 2002 – 31 December 2002



2002-03 Fatalities by State



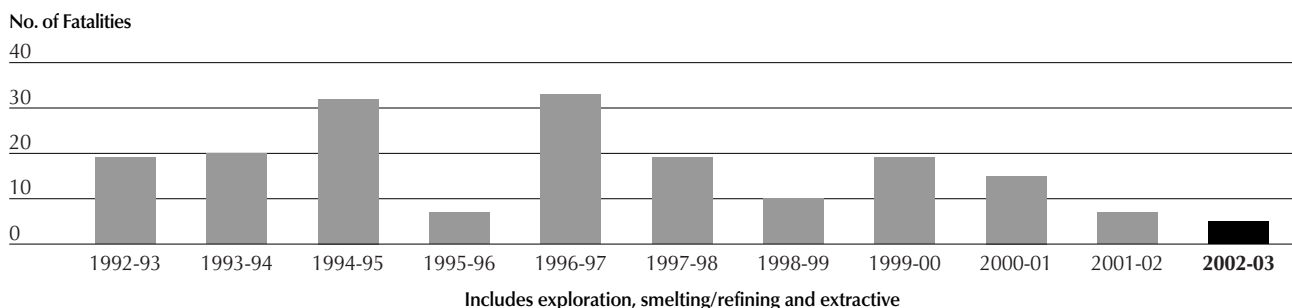
REVISED FATALITY TOTAL FOR 2001-02 (PREVIOUS) REPORTING YEAR

During preparation of the annual *Safety & Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry for 2001-02*, a seventh fatality in the industry has come to light.

Mr Russell Morris, a 39-year-old electrician, died on 11 November 2001 while working at the Tomago Aluminium smelter. At the time of his death he was carrying out live testing on the upper section of the furnace tending assembly in bake oven one. No confirmation of cause of death has yet been released.

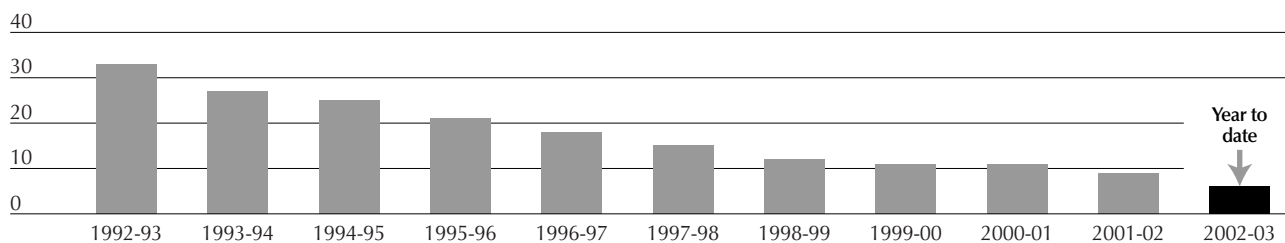
This revises the total number of fatalities in the 2001-02 reporting year to seven.

Fatalities 1992-93 – 31 December 2002



LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1992-93 – 31 December 2002



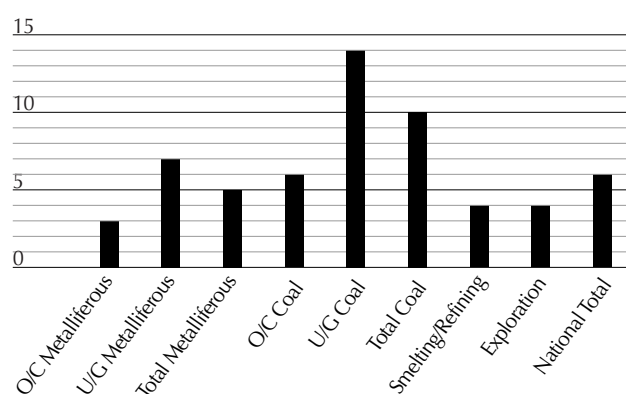
The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first half-year is estimated at six. This compares favourably with the LTIFR of nine for the same six months of the previous year.

When compared to last year's second quarterly survey, all sectors have shown improvement except exploration which has remained stable. Significantly the LTIFR for underground coal has dropped to 14 and the underground metalliferous rate has improved from nine to seven.

As a result of these declines in LTIFR, the total coal and total metalliferous rates for the first half-year have improved to 10 (from 14 the previous year) and five (from six) respectively.

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 – 31 December 2002



MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Thirty-one severe injuries (25 for the same period last year) were reported for the second quarter.

Survey responses indicated that there were three losses of body part (finger amputation); no loss of body function; and 27 other severe damage which comprised:

- fractures (15),
- burns (8),
- crush injuries (2),

and two others comprising lacerations and shock after rockfall hit hard hat.

MEDICAL TREATMENT INJURIES

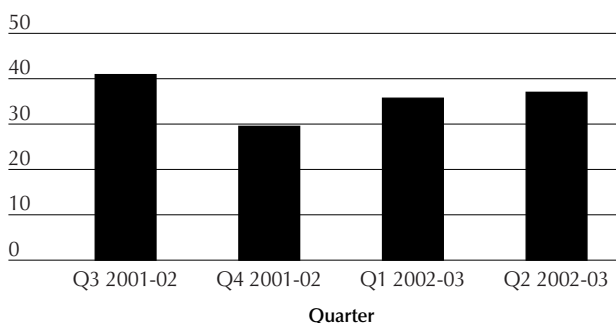
For the second quarter of the 2002-2003 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 889 medical treatment injuries (791 in first quarter). For the same quarter last year, 641 were reported.

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 include fatalities, lost time injuries, restricted work cases and medical treatment cases.

A total of 1574 TRIs have been reported this quarter which equates to an indicative TRIFR of 37.

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)



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

CALL FOR 2003 MINEX AWARDS APPLICANTS & EVALUATORS

Learn and share excellence by participating in the 2003 MINEX Awards

The Minerals Council of Australia invites minerals industry sites and personnel to participate in the 2003 National Minerals Industry Excellence Award for Safety and Health – the MINEX Awards – as an applicant or an evaluator.

If you are interested in entering your site for the MINEX Awards or becoming an evaluator, contact Del Da Costa on (02) 6279 3644 or d.dacosta@minerals.org.au for more information.

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 Kestrel Mine, recipient of a High Commendation at the 2002 MINEX Awards held in Terrigal, NSW last September.

PACIFIC COAL (RIO TINTO)

KESTREL COAL

Type of Operation

The mine was purchased by Rio Tinto through Pacific Coal from Arco in early 1999 and renamed Kestrel Coal.

Mining began in 1992 under the Gordonstone banner. Kestrel is an underground operation producing coking coal and thermal coal from a seam approximately 270 metres below the surface using the longwall mining method. The coal is processed through the coal preparation plant located at the mine, and is then transported to the port of Gladstone by rail. Kestrel mine employs a total workforce of around 250 personnel.

Location

Kestrel mine is located 50 km north-east of Emerald in Queensland's Bowen Basin.

Safety and Health Contact

Mr Warren Pendlebury
Senior Safety/Training Adviser
Email: warren.pendlebury@pcpl.riotinto.com.au

Safety and Health Strengths

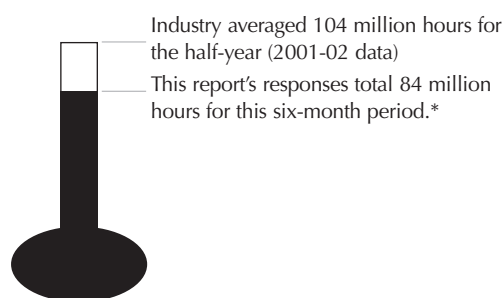
- All levels of management demonstrate the commitment and leadership necessary to achieve a workplace which is injury- and incident-free. A quality recruitment process is employed at the mine.
- A culture of respect, honesty and pride has been created on site underpinned by a safety strategy committed to a culture of continuous improvement to strive for best practice and excellence.
- Hazard awareness, hazard identification and application of risk assessment management strategies is comprehensive and pervasive.
- Each employee is aware of expected safety and health responsibilities and accountabilities as these are documented in job descriptions.
- The adoption of proactive change management strategies which cover both the introduction of new plant, equipment, processes and materials, and the operation and maintenance of plant and equipment.

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 – see above for one such revision.

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 81% 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/safety_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