

> AUSTRALIAN MINERALS INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

ISSUE 3 2004

FOR 1 JULY 2003 – 31 MARCH 2004

QUARTER

3

2003-2004

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

SUMMARY

- > Five (5) fatalities were recorded in the third quarter of the 2003-2004 reporting year. In the same reporting period last year, there were four recorded fatalities.
- > Three of the fatalities this quarter occurred in the extractives sector in South Australia; one fatality occurred at an open-cut metalliferous mine in Queensland; and one occurred in the smelting/refining sector in NSW.
- > The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the nine-month period is estimated at six which is the same as that reported last quarter.
- > The Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) has deteriorated from 26 to 27.

SAFETY NEWS

MINEX in 2004

There are 10 sites in this year's MINEX Awards process seeking recognition for their continuous improvement processes in safety and health.

This year's applicant sites are:

- > BHP Billiton Iron Ore Railway
- > Newmont Pajingo Operations
- > Goonyella Riverside Mine (BMA)
- > Peak Gold Mines (Wheaton Minerals)
- > International Power Hazelwood Mine
- > Pilbara Rail (Rio Tinto)
- > Marulan Mine – BCSC Minerals (Boral)
- > South Middleback Ranges Iron Ore (HWE)
- > North Goonyella Coal Mine (RAG Australia)
- > Sunrise Dam Gold Mine (AngloGold)

The 18 nominated evaluators have completed MINEX training and are undertaking site visits during June.

This year's MINEX Awards presentation dinner is being held in conjunction with the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference, 15-17 August, in Townsville.

The conference program and registration is now available from the Queensland Resources Council website. www.qrc.org.au/about/about-conferences_safety.htm

Safety & Health Innovations

The National S&H Innovation Awards are designed to foster the development of innovative solutions to everyday safety and health issues. By conducting these 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 industry.

This year's National S&H Innovation Awards presentation will be held on Monday 26 July 2004 in conjunction with the NSW Minerals industry *Safe Mining – Healthy Business* conference in the Blue Mountains.

www.nswmin.com.au (Latest news) and [National S&H Innovation Awards](#)

WA – Safety and Health Innovation Awards

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA is conducting their inaugural S&H Innovation Awards this year. Deadline for entries is 20 August 2004. www.cmewa.com

DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES

(1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2004 ONLY)

There have been five fatalities during this third quarter of the 2003-04 reporting year.

Queensland O/C Metalliferous

On 9 February 2004, Mr Peter Marshall, an employee of the Roche Eltin Joint Venture was working at Zinifex (Pasminco) Century Mine. Mr Marshall and a colleague were changing wheels on a Komatsu truck when the split ring on the inner rear wheel became dislodged causing the tyre to move uncontrollably. The wheel was projected some 15 metres, striking Mr Marshall's colleague and pinning Mr Marshall underneath the tyre assembly. Mr Marshall suffered fatal injuries and his colleague sustained a broken jaw.

New South Wales Smelting/refining

On 14 February 2004, Mr Neil O'Connell sustained abdominal injuries while working in the paste plant at the Tomago Aluminium smelter. After pushing an anode from a trolley onto a reject conveyor, Mr O'Connell was crushed between the

trolley and the reject conveyor. Mr O'Connell died in hospital on 25 February 2004.

South Australia Extractives

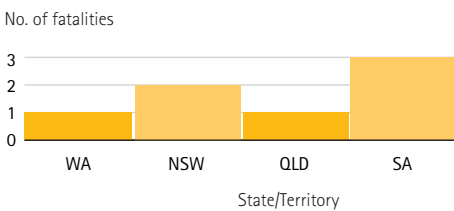
On 25 February 2004, Mr Trevor Benson was contracted to conduct welding work on a new conveyor plant – fabricating in the workshop at SWP Blue Metal Rock Quarry's Curramulka site. He was found crushed by collapsing plant.

South Australia Extractives

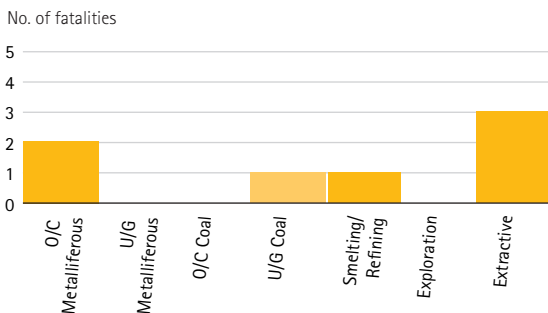
On 1 March 2004, two quarry workers Mr Albie Henneker and Mr Craig laHanson were driving in a 60 tonne Komatsu ore truck (routine crush-and-haul process from the quarry face up to the crusher) when the vehicle veered across the quarry access road and over the edge of the quarry. The truck rolled approximately 35 metres and came to rest on the quarry wall. Messrs Henneker and laHanson suffered fatal injuries.

These five fatalities bring the total fatalities for the 2003-04 reporting year (to 31 March) to seven.

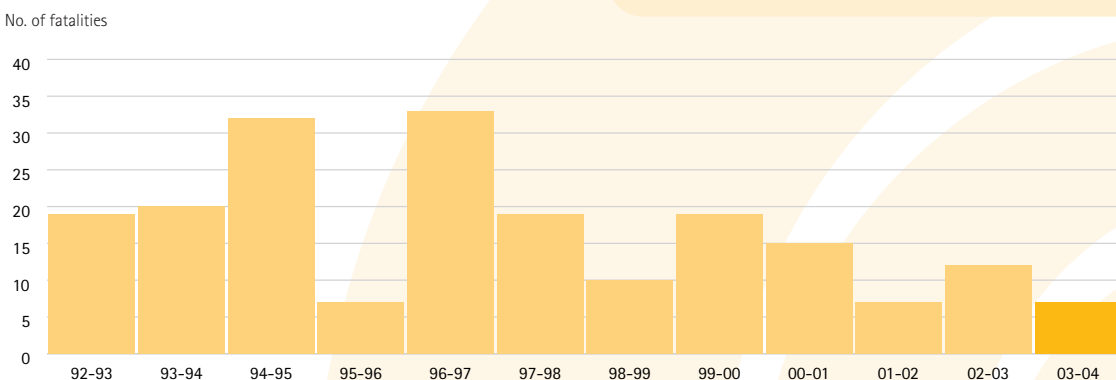
2003-2004 Fatalities by State



Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2003 – 31 March 2004



Fatalities 1992-93 to 31 March 2004



Correction of fatality information from the Quarter 2 Safety Survey Report – Description of Minerals Industry Fatalities. New information is available about the death of Mr Jamie Sullivan on 20 November 2003 and the following is abstracted from the NSW Department of Mineral Resources Safety Alert 04-06.

"A crane dogger was killed on 20 November 2003 when struck by a materials trailer, which detached from a crane while being moved to a new position in a pick and carry operation.

Circumstances

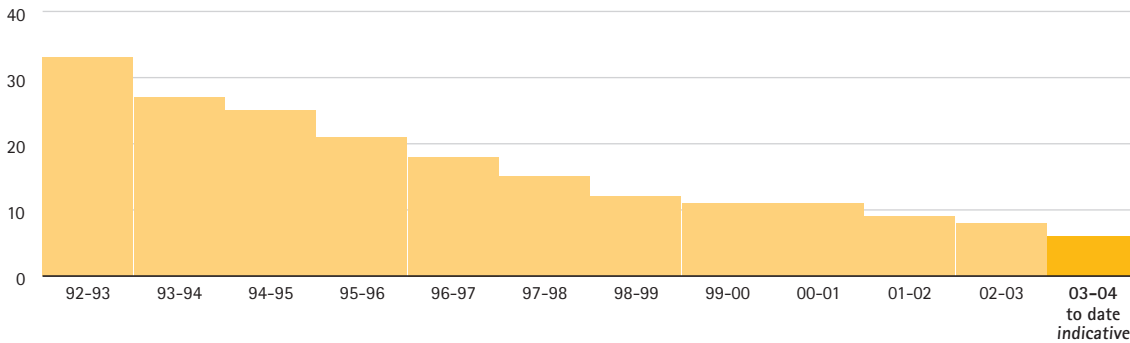
The trailer had been lifted from a truck and was being placed in the surface storage area of an underground mine. The load was slung from four chains using 2 "two-leg" sets of chains. From the investigation it appears that the two supporting oblong links were placed directly on the crane hook and had a wide angle of separation, possibly up to 120 degrees. Apparently the oblong link on the open side of the hook suddenly slid up the bill of the hook. In doing so, it smashed through the safety latch on the hook and became disengaged, causing the load to fall."

Further information

<http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/safalert.htm>
SA 04-06

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1992-93 – 31 March 2004



The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first nine months of 2003-04 is estimated at six.

For the first nine months, the LTIFR for underground metalliferous (6), total metalliferous (4), open-cut coal (5) and total coal (9) show marginal improvements in comparison with the same reporting period last year (seven, five, six and 10 respectively). A deterioration in LTIFR is indicated for open-cut metalliferous (from three to four) and underground coal (from 15 to 19). Other sectors remain the same.

Most Severe Injuries

Forty-two (42) severe injuries were reported for the third quarter. This number is at the top end of the reported range in recent quarters.

Survey responses indicated that there was no loss of body parts reported (a rare occurrence); no loss of body function; but 42 Other Severe Injuries which comprised:

- > fractures/breaks (26);
- > crush injuries (9);
- > burns (6); and
- > other (1) – abdominal injuries.

Medical Treatment Injuries

For the third quarter of the 2003-2004 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 613 Medical Treatment Injuries (483 – Q2; 599 – Q1).

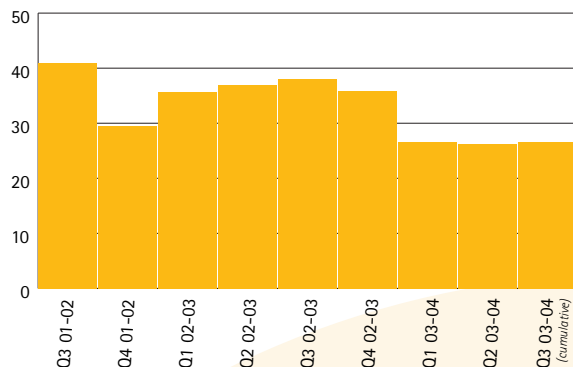
Total Recordable Injuries

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 all injuries except first aid cases. Jurisdictions are encouraged to adopt this measure.

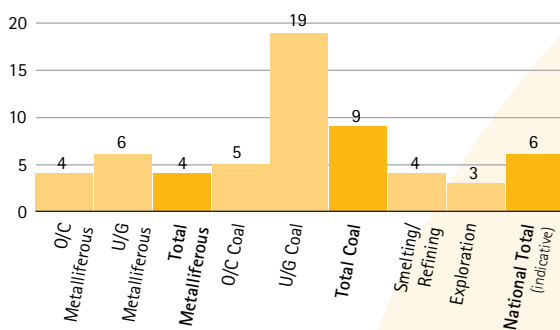
A total of 1169 TRIs have been reported this quarter which equates to an indicative TRIFR of 27. (1131 TRIs in Q2, 1207 in Q1.)

Companies may like to compare their TRIFR with this minerals industry indicative figure.

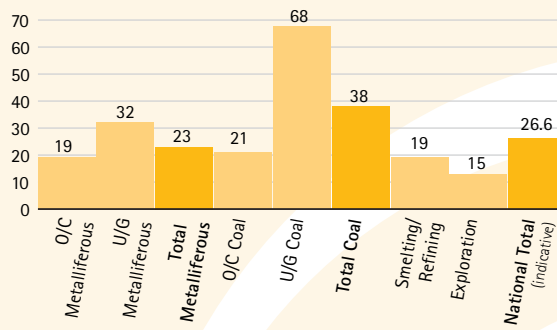
Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)



LTIFR by sector 1 July 2003 – 31 March 2004



TRIFR by Sector 1 July 2003 – 31 March 2004



SAFETY PROFILES

The Australian minerals industry does not accept that there is any inevitability of accidents or fatalities. Through its commitment to leadership, and recognising and sharing good practice, the MCA is a strong advocate of preventative risk management.

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 Xstrata Copper Australia's Ernest Henry Mining, recipient of an Acknowledgment at the 2003 MINEX Awards.

XSTRATA COPPER AUSTRALIA ERNEST HENRY MINING

Type of Operation

Ernest Henry Mining, owned by Xstrata Copper Australia, is a large-scale open-cut copper/gold mine with associated concentrator.

The deposit was discovered in 1974 but the mine was not fully operational until August 1997. With a workforce of almost 400, the mine produces 300,000 tonnes of copper/gold concentrate per year.

Location

The mine is located 38 km north-east of Cloncurry in north-west Queensland.

Safety and Health Contact

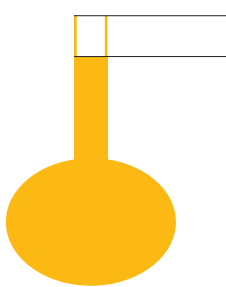
Mr Jeff Lyndon
Safety, Health & Training Superintendent
Ernest Henry Mining
Tel: 07 4769 4544
Fax: 07 4769 4555
Email: jlyndon@xstrata.com.au

Safety and Health Strengths

- > Competency-based packages used to ensure a high degree of safety training is provided to all employees. The mine has entered into a partnership with a registered training organisation and conducts regular external audits.
- > A comprehensive process to identify all safety and health legislative requirements has been implemented and partnerships developed with external parties to trigger legislative reviews in a timely manner.
- > A focus on safety and health is clearly demonstrated to all new employees with comprehensive behavioural expectations, competencies and personnel safety requirements before commencing employment. Individual responsibilities are also included in position descriptions.
- > The commitment of the leadership team to communicating health and safety issues, including their preparedness to shut down operations to discuss with employees any issues that could lead to high potential incidents.
- > A change management process covers not only physical assessment of plant and machinery but also modifications to existing safe operating procedures (SOPs) or the development of new risk-based SOPs. The change management system requires input by all relevant stakeholders.

METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

Report coverage based on exposure hours



Industry averaged 226 million hours for the reporting year (2002-03 data).

This Report's responses total 132 million hours for nine month period.*

* When the exposure hours for this reporting year (2002-03) are compared with official industry exposure hours for 2002-03, an indicative figure of 78% coverage in this Report is calculated. However, this figure may overestimate the Report's coverage.

The MCA acknowledges the limitations of the survey methodology, data consistency and reporting timeframe. Readers should note this Report is indicative only.

The MCA would like to thank all reporting companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, Coal Services and the Australian Aluminium Council who supplied information for this Report.

The MCA is aware that, for some fatalities, the circumstances at the time of the incident are unclear, including whether it is a workplace-related fatality. 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 page 2 for such an amendment this quarter.

Minerals Council of Australia

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This document can be found on the MCA Website

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 6233 0644, fax 02 6233 0699 or by email d.dacosta@minerals.org.au