

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2001 –
30 JUNE 2002

SUMMARY

- There were three fatalities this quarter bringing the total fatalities for the 2001-02 reporting year ending 30 June to six. (Fourteen fatalities in the previous reporting year.)
- The indicative total industry LTIFR for 2001-02 is estimated to be eight. (LTIFR of 11 in the previous reporting year 2000-01.)
 - The most serious increase of LTIFR again appears at underground metalliferous mines.
- The Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIs per million hours worked) for the quarter is 29.8.
 - This rate comprises 1119 total recordable injuries for this fourth quarter.

SAFETY NEWS

NATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INNOVATION AWARDS

Tuesday 8 October, Adelaide – The fourth annual National Safety & Health Innovations Awards will be held at a presentation dinner on Tuesday 8 October in Adelaide. The awards celebrate ideas which prevent accidents and injury in the Australian minerals industry and were designed to foster the development of innovative solutions to everyday safety and health issues. The Awards dinner, being held at the Adelaide Hilton Hotel, precedes the national Safety & Health Conference on quality front-line supervision (see below). Details are available on the Council's website www.minerals.org.au (click on Safety & Health – Annual safety & health conference).

NATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CONFERENCE – QUALITY FRONT-LINE SUPERVISION

Wednesday 9 October – The MCA's 2002 national safety and health conference will focus on the role of the front line supervisor in managing safety and will explore the challenges faced by companies in achieving consistent and effective performance from their supervisors. The day promises to be dynamic with the inclusion of:

- a presentation by David Karpin, author of *The Karpin Report* into management and leadership;

- a panel discussion on the role of the supervisor from the management and operational perspectives facilitated by Ali Moore of the *Business Sunday* program;
- a manager's and a supervisor's perspective; and
- a presentation by Ric Charlesworth, former Australian women's hockey team coach (two Olympic gold medal performances) currently working with the Fremantle Dockers AFL team.

Both the Innovations Awards and Conference are scheduled to take place at the Adelaide Hilton Hotel. The registration brochure is available from the Council's website.

RECENT SAFETY & HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

The Council has recently released a number of safety and health-related publications. These are all available from the Council's website and include:

- Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian minerals industry 2000-01
- Safety and Health Innovation Profiles 2001
- Positive Performance Measures: a practical guideline
- MINEX Awards 2001 case study – Bengalla Mining Co

*“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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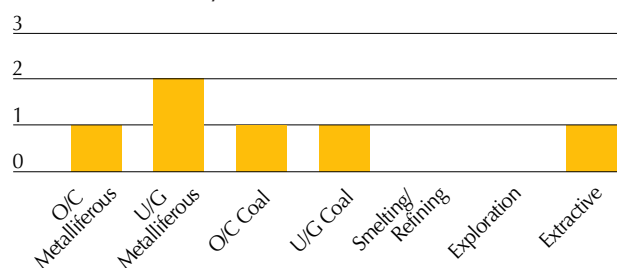
www.minerals.org.au

FATALITIES

Of the six fatalities which have occurred this 2001-02 reporting year:

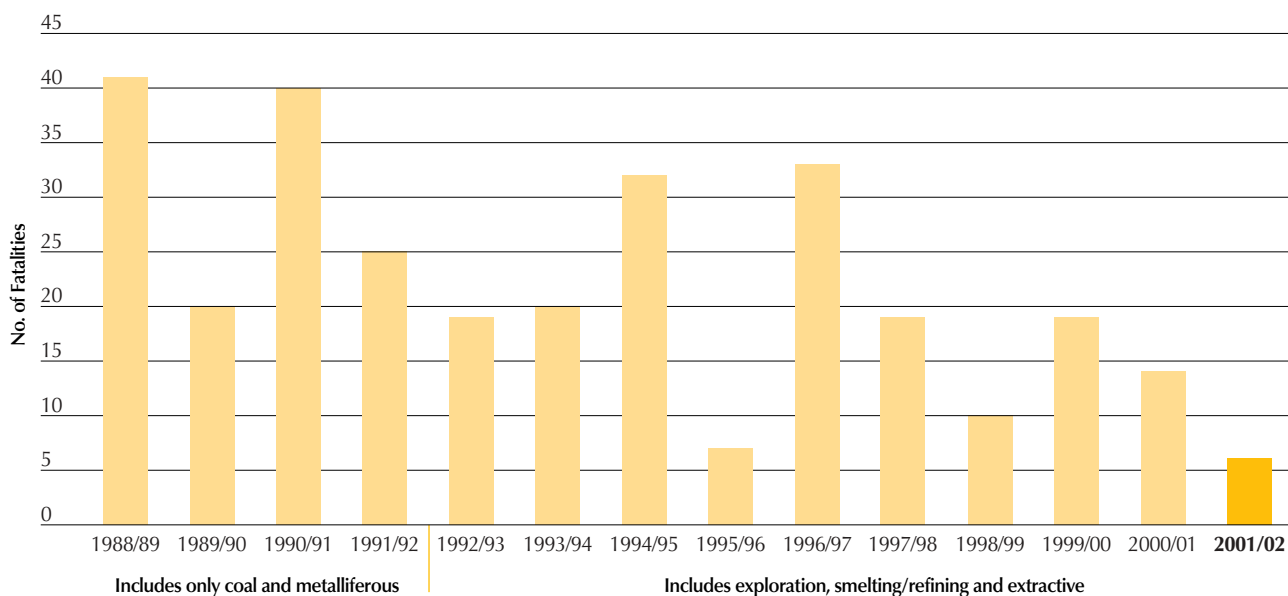
- Two occurred in underground metalliferous mines; and
- One each in the other sectors, viz extractive, open-cut coal, underground coal, open-cut metalliferous.

2001-02 Fatalities by sector

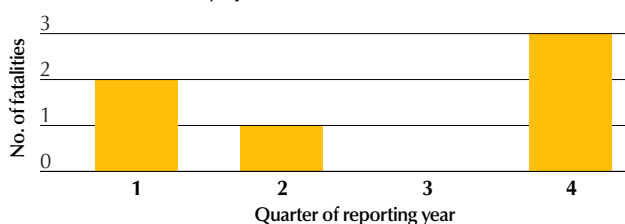


Fatalities 1988-89 – 30 June 2002

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



2001-02 Fatalities by quarter



2001-02 Fatalities by State



Notes:

In the 2000-01 reporting year, there were six fatalities in the third quarter (highest) and two fatalities in the second quarter (lowest).

In the 1999-2000 reporting year, there were seven fatalities in the fourth quarter (highest) and three fatalities in the third quarter (lowest).

DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES from 1 April – 30 June 2002 only

There have been three fatalities during this fourth quarter.

Queensland – OPEN-CUT COAL

Mr Chris Belfield, 49, an employee of Ergon Energy died on BMA Blackwater mine site on 12 April 2002 as a result of injuries sustained after being crushed while operating a truck-mounted vehicle loading crane.

Queensland – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

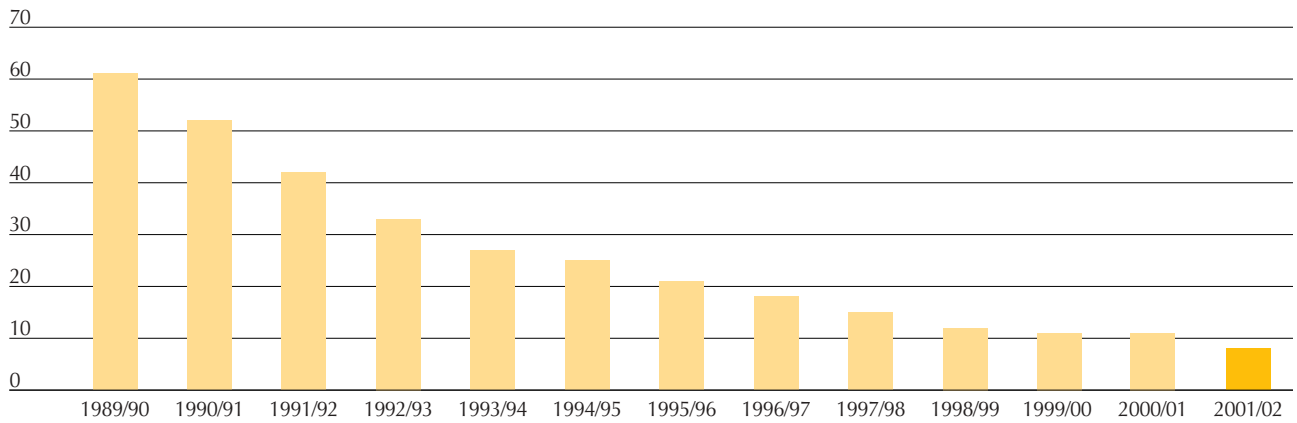
A 25-year-old miner, Mr Shane Prowse, was killed when a large boulder fell from the face of the mine and trapped him while he was with a team setting charges underground at SMC Gold's Rishton mine.

Western Australia – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

An unnamed contractor drill jumbo operator was found unconscious next to an open electrical switchbox at NickelSeekers' Daisy Milano mine, an underground gold operation.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 2001-02



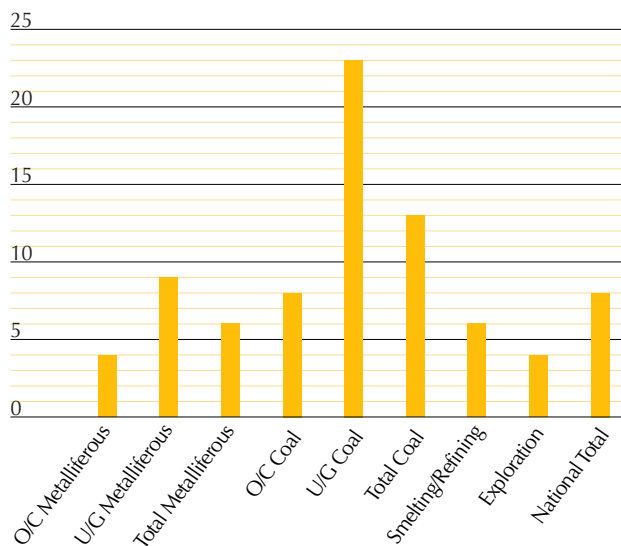
The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for 2001-02 is estimated at eight. This compares favourably with the official LTIFR of 11 for the minerals industry in the previous reporting year. It matches last year's *Safety Survey Report* figure of eight.

When compared to last year's *Safety Survey Report*, the LTIFR for open-cut metalliferous has improved slightly to four (from five), 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 eight (from eleven) and underground coal has improved fractionally to 23 (from 24). Smelting/refining and exploration have increased to six (from five) and four (from three) respectively.

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

LTIFR By Sector 1 July 2001 – 30 June 2002

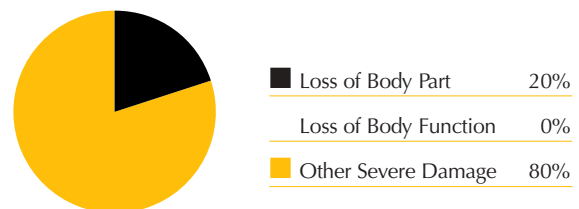


MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Twenty (20) severe injuries were reported for the fourth quarter. Survey responses indicated that there were four losses of body parts (all finger tip amputations); no loss of body function; and 16 other severe damage which comprised:

- fractures (6);
- electric shock (2)
- crush injuries (3)
- lacerations (2) and
- burns to the leg (2)
- others (1) ie broken tooth.

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



MEDICAL TREATMENT INJURIES

For the fourth quarter of the 2001-2002 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 573 medical treatment injuries. For the same quarter last year, the figure stood at 872 medical treatment injuries. All data returns now report medical treatment injuries/cases.

LTIs greater than 10 days are no longer recorded.

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 (TRI) which includes fatalities, lost time injuries, restricted work cases and medical treatment cases.

Thirty-two companies or groups have reported 1119 TRIs this quarter which equates to a TRIFR of 29.8; last quarter 33 responses reported 1676 total recordable injuries for a TRIFR of 40.9.

SAFETY RESEARCH

MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOUR CRITICAL TO SAFETY: REPORT

Managers must demonstrate health and safety leadership if behaviour modification programs to correct unsafe behaviour in the workplace are to be successful, according to overseas research published recently.

The study, *Strategies to promote safe behaviour as part of a health and safety management system*, commissioned by the UK's Health and Safety Executive, finds organisations are missing out on opportunities to promote critical health and safety behaviour by limiting behavioural modification programs to front line staff. The report concludes a lack of management support can undermine efforts to correct the unsafe behaviour of employees.

The situation in Australia mirrors the UK experience, according to a behavioural safety expert from the National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA). Lidia Ferraro, NSCA senior consultant, says organisations that are adopting behavioural modification techniques are mostly aiming to change employee, rather than management, behaviour.

The report sets out a six-step plan for using behaviour modification techniques to promote the two behaviours which have been found to be critical for effective safety leadership: meeting with employees frequently to discuss safety; and responding quickly to employee suggestions and concerns.

The report notes management commitment to behaviour modification programs is essential. It cites an Australian study that identified nine management behaviours associated with effective behavioural change programs:

1. Active managerial involvement in safety;
2. Delegation of authority for safety to employees;
3. Briefing of all levels of the organisation;
4. Consistency of management's current safety practices;
5. Leadership by management to improve safety;
6. Supervisors serving as role models;
7. Personable communication;
8. Priority be given to safe production; and
9. Coordination between management and the research team.

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The HSE study can be accessed and downloaded via www.hse.gov.uk/research/crr_pdf/2002/crr02430.pdf

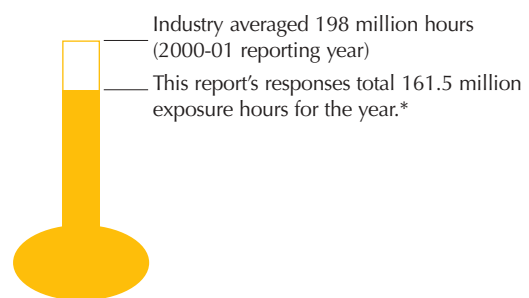
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

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 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 (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