

# > AUSTRALIAN MINERALS INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH

QUARTER

# 2

2003-2004

## SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

ISSUE 2 2004

FOR 1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2003

### SUMMARY

- > One (1) fatality was recorded in the second quarter of the 2003–2004 reporting year. In the same reporting period last year, there were three fatalities.
- > The fatality occurred on the surface of an underground coal mine in NSW.
- > The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the six months is estimated at six which is the same as that reported last quarter.
- > The Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) remains unchanged at 26.

### SAFETY NEWS

#### Safety & Health Performance Report 2002–03

Official data for the 2002–03 Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry is now available. The publication is expected to be released at the end of March.

#### Performance at a Glance

- > There were 12 fatalities in the Australian minerals industry in 2002–03, five more than in 2001–02.
- > There were no fatalities in the coal sector for the first time in recorded history.
- > One miner died for every 18.9 million hours worked in the industry (29.6 million hours\*).
- > One miner died for every 8,655 workers employed in the industry (13,406 workers\*).
- > 1,706 injuries occurred, requiring at least one full shift absence (1,859 injuries\*).
- > For each lost time injury, an average of 26 days' absence (24 days' absence\*) was recorded – duration rate.
- > In this reporting year, 184 days (211 days\*) were lost per million hours worked – severity rate.
- > For every million hours worked, eight injuries occurred that required at least one full shift absence (nine injuries\*).

\*for the previous year, 2001–02

#### MINEX in 2004

MINEX celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2004. Applications from mine sites in every State and Territory, large and small, are encouraged to underscore the industry's commitment to excellence, identifying and sharing best practice and driving continuous improvement in pursuit of the Vision of *an Australian minerals industry free of fatalities, injuries and diseases*. Late applications will be considered if sites can meet the 23 April deadline for receipt of the submission addressing each of the categories/items (corporate leadership, enterprise leadership, etc). [Contact Del Da Costa](#) if you would still like to nominate your site.

The full MINEX Information Kit is now available for download:

- > "Are you ready for MINEX?"
- > "How do I become a MINEX Evaluator in 2004?"
- > "What is MINEX?"
- > "How do I apply for MINEX?"
- > Sample 'best practice' 2003 MINEX submission, courtesy of Alcoa – WA Mining

**MINEX applicant sites** – Some operations think there is no use entering MINEX because they are not ready to be evaluated successfully. Although receiving the MINEX award is tremendous recognition and a great motivator, MINEX is not just about coming first. A MINEX evaluation report is a good starting point for continuous improvement of any site's approach to safety management.

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



**MINEX Evaluators** - MINEX is seeking line managers, executives and aspiring general managers to nominate as evaluators whose assessments form the backbone of the MINEX Awards process. A MINEX evaluator role provides a solid foundation for safety and health management and professional development.

**Alcoa WA Mining 2003 Submission** - The submission provides potential applicants with a guide to the components of a well-written MINEX submission. It also enables potential evaluators to understand what they will be required to analyse and assess.

**Safety and Health Resources/Information**

> The WA Department of Industry and Resources has published its *Safety Performance in the Western Australian Minerals Industry, Accident and Injury Statistics 2002-03*. The statistics show a marginal improvement in the State's LTIFR to 4.4 but a deterioration in the injury duration rate (average work days lost per injury) for the second year in a row.

- > The Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association (MASHA) in Ontario, Canada has a useful website which includes significant accident/incident bulletins, safety and health innovations and statistics. [www.masha.on.ca](http://www.masha.on.ca)
- > The US Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has an automatic alert mailing list. If you would like to receive email safety and health information/publications - and in particular Fatalgrams as they are posted - visit [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov) and register on their Mailing List under Quick Links.
- > *Safe Mining - Healthy Business 2004*, NSW Minerals Council and NSW Dept of Mineral Resources Safety & Health conference: 25-27 July 2004, Blue Mountains. Call for Papers: proposals for papers or workshop sessions due by 19 March.
- > *Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference*: 15-17 August 2004, Townsville. Call for Papers: proposals for papers and Queensland innovations due by 23 April.
- > Occupational & Industrial Lung Diseases seminar, 1 April, Sydney. Contact (02) 9402 4992 for further information.

## DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES

(1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER 2003 ONLY)

There has been one fatality during this second quarter of the 2003-04 reporting year.

**New South Wales**

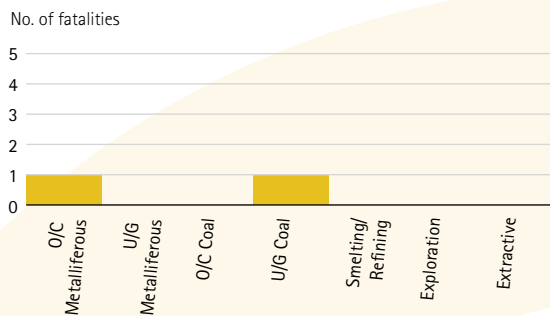
**Underground coal**

On 21 November 2003 Mr Jamie Sullivan, an employee of Muswellbrook Crane Services, was working at Anglo Coal Australia's Kayuga mine. He was struck when part of the lifting apparatus on a crane (working on a surface area) broke as a steel trailer was being unloaded from the back of a truck, hitting him in the head.

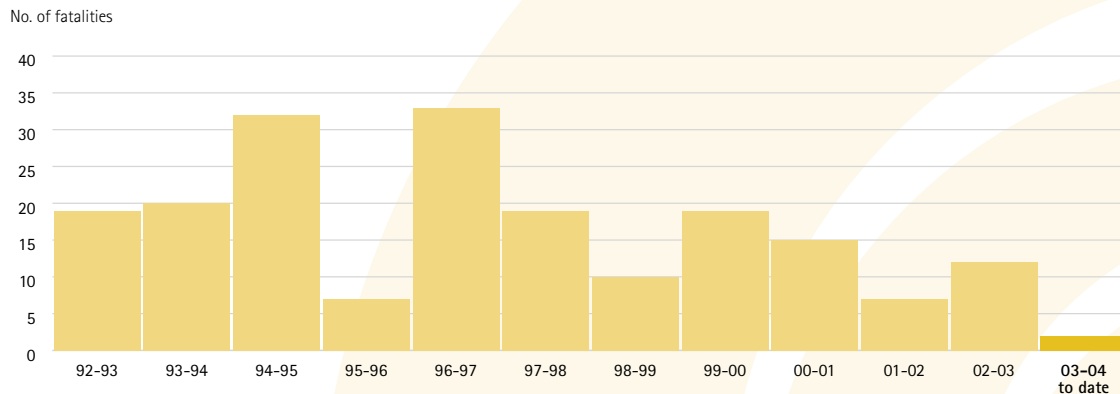
1 July – 31 December 2003 Fatalities by State



Fatalities by sector 1 July – 31 December 2003

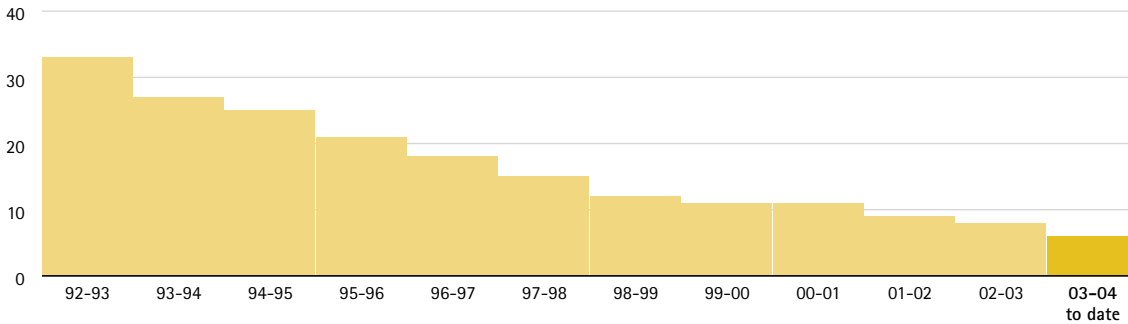


Fatalities 1992-93 to 31 December 2003



## LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1992-93 – 31 December 2003



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

In comparison with the same time last year, the total sectors have made marginal improvements. Total metalliferous has made an incremental improvement to a rate of four. Total coal indicates a marginal improvement from 10 to nine although underground coal shows a decline from 14 to 18.

### Most severe injuries

Thirty-six (36) severe injuries were reported for the second quarter. This number is at the top end of the reported range in recent quarters.

Survey responses indicated that there were four losses of body part (all fingertip/thumb amputations); no loss of body function; and 32 Other Severe Injuries which comprised:

- > fractures/breaks (15);
- > crush injuries (10);
- > burns (5); and
- > other (2) - concussion, dislocation.

### Medical Treatment Injuries

For the second quarter of the 2003-2004 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 483 medical treatment injuries. This is approximately half the number reported for each of the quarters in the 2002-03 reporting year.

### Total Recordable Injuries

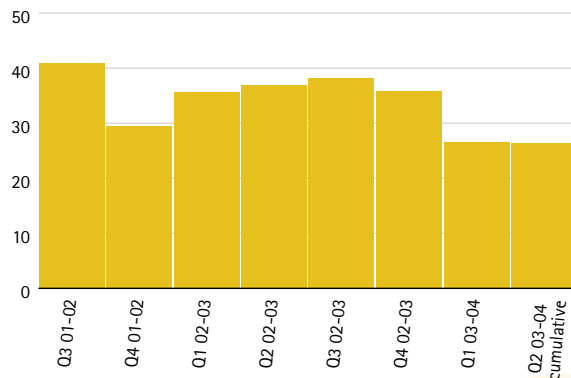
The industry is working in a voluntary and proactive way to improve safety and health performance by reporting broader outcomes measures and in particular Total Recordable Injuries

(TRIs) which include fatalities, lost time injuries, restricted work cases and medical treatment cases. Jurisdictions are encouraged to adopt this measure also as a consistent outcome measure.

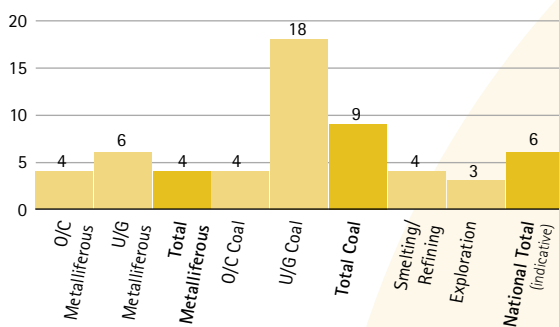
A total of 1131 TRIs (1207 last quarter) have been reported this quarter which equates to an indicative TRIFR of 26.

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

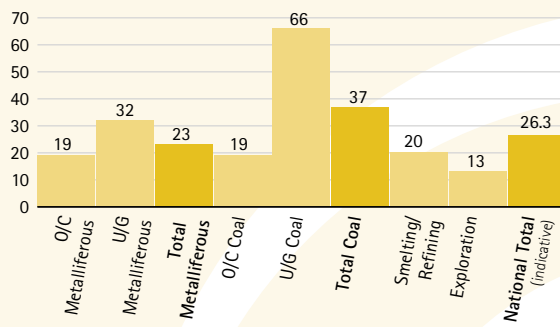
Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)



LTIFR by sector 1 July – 31 December 2003



TRIFR by sector 1 July – 31 December 2003



## SAFETY MILESTONES

The MCA 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 BHP Billiton Iron Ore's Mt Whaleback, recipient of a Highly Commended MINEX Award at the 2003 Awards presentation.

### BHP BILLITON IRON ORE – MT WHALEBACK

#### Type of Operation

BHP Billiton's Mt Whaleback operation is an open-cut mine which, in the year ending June 2003, had a total movement of 43 million tonnes of high-grade iron ore railed to Port Hedland for export. Mt Whaleback was discovered in 1957 and commenced development in 1966 eventually becoming fully operational in 1969. There is a workforce of over one thousand.

#### Location

The mine is located near Newman, 1200 km north of Perth, Western Australia

#### Safety and Health Contact

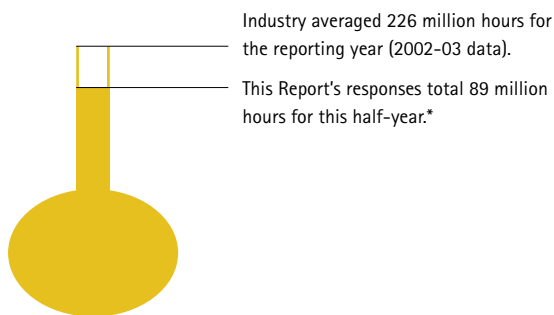
Mr Wayne McMillan  
Manager, OHS&E  
Tel: 08 9175 3406  
Fax: 08 9175 2766  
Email: wayne.r.mcmillan@bhpbilliton.com

#### Safety and Health Strengths

- > Effective integration of the existing platform for safety and health - the Newman Safety System - with new corporate standards developed by BHP Billiton.
- > An enviable safety performance, as measured by LTIFR, workers' compensation claim costs and National Safety Council of Australia audit results.
- > Widespread use of a suite of business improvement tools to drive continuous improvement in safety and health as well as other aspects of the business.
- > Implementation of a behavioural safety program known as "safe act observations". Workforce involvement and consultation is used to identify ways to enhance the program's effectiveness.
- > Well-resourced emergency management and health and welfare management.

## METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

### Report coverage based on exposure hours



\* When the exposure hours for this reporting year (2002-03) are compared with official industry exposure hours for 2002-03, an indicative figure of 79% 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 not draw any conclusions based on this Report.

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.

NB: From 1 July 2003, BHP Billiton changed their injury/illness definitions. This affects all BHP Billiton reporting data in this Report.

#### Lost Time Case

- > A *Lost Time Case* is a work-related injury or illness resulting in the employee/contractor being unable to attend work on the next calendar day after the day of the injury.
- > If a suitably qualified medical professional advises that the injured person is unable to attend work on the next calendar day after the injury, regardless of the injured person's next rostered shift, a lost time injury is deemed to have occurred.

#### Restricted Work Case

- > A Restricted Work Case is a work related injury or illness which results in the employee being unable to perform one or more of their routine functions, or from working the full day on or after the next calendar day after the injury/illness. An injury is not regarded as a restricted work injury when the medically imposed restrictions limit activities other than their routine functions.

#### Routine Functions

- > The work activities that the employee regularly performs at least once per week.

MCA contact details – as of November 2003:  
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Website: www.minerals.org.au (unchanged)

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