

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2001 –
30 SEPTEMBER 2001

SUMMARY

- Two (2) fatalities were recorded in the first quarter of the 2001-2002 reporting year. At the same time last year the industry had recorded three fatalities.
- One fatality occurred in an underground coal mine in NSW and one was recorded in the extractives sector in WA.
- LTIFR by sector indicates a disappointing rise in the rate for the underground metalliferous sector to 10. However, the open-cut coal sector shows improvement from an average of 11 for the previous year to a rate of seven for this quarter.
- The indicative total industry LTIFR for the first quarter is estimated at 8, which is lower than the rate of 11 as reported in the 1999-2000 Safety and Health Performance Report.

Note: This estimate is likely to change once official figures are reported and published in the Council's comprehensive annual Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry 2000-2001.

SAFETY NEWS

2001 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to Bengalla Mining Company, recipient of the 2001 MINEX Award! The presentation dinner was held on 27 August in Townsville in conjunction with the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference. In total, nine operations were recognised at this year's ceremony:

2001 MINEX Award

- Rio Tinto/Coal & Allied – Bengalla Mining Company

Highly Commended

- Delta Gold – Kanowna Belle Gold Mines
- Anglo Coal Australia – Drayton Coal

Commended

- Rio Tinto Limited – Dampier Salt
- Pasminco Limited – Rosebery Mine

Acknowledgment

- Powercoal Pty Ltd – Angus Place Colliery
- Western Metals Limited – Lennard Shelf Operations
- Glencore Coal Australia – South Bulga Colliery
- Mining Project Investors Pty Ltd – Stawell Gold Mines

All applicants have received their evaluation reports. These reports set out the applicant's safety and health strengths as well as opportunities for improvement.

The Council would like to thank the evaluators, judges, MINEX Reference Group and Recognition Working Group members for their efforts in ensuring the continued success of the MINEX Awards.

MINEX IN 2002

An information leaflet *Are you ready for MINEX?* has been widely distributed throughout the industry. The brochure encourages sites to become MINEX applicants in 2002 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.

Full details about the MINEX participation process are available in the publications *What is MINEX?* and *How do I apply for MINEX in 2002?* which will both be available in hard copy format in mid-January. Copies may also be downloaded from the Council website now: www.minerals.org.au

*“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**

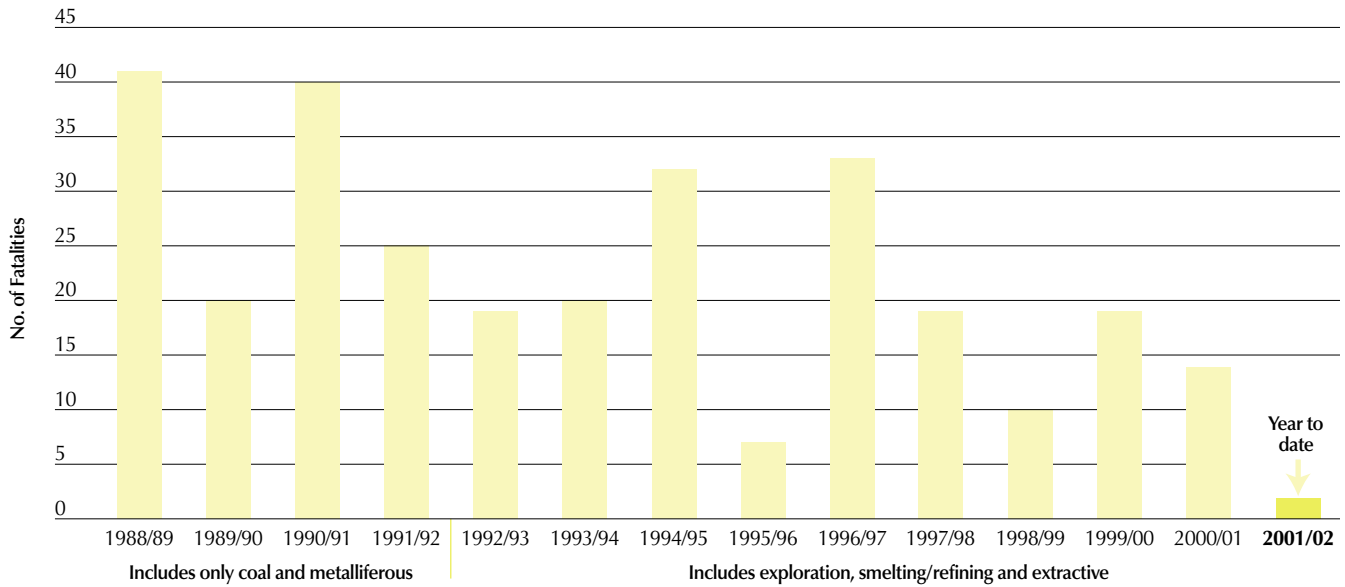
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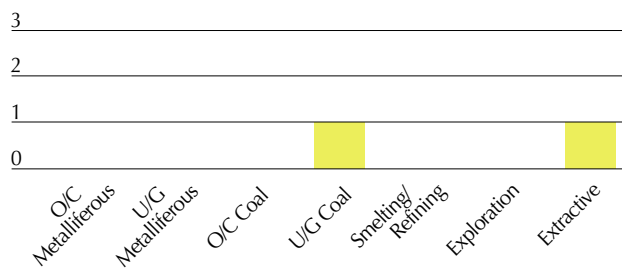
FATALITIES

Fatalities 1988-89 – 30 June 2001

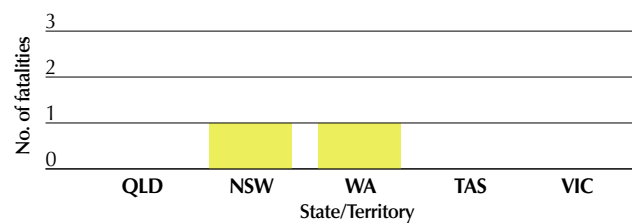
Information contained in the chart prior to 1992 is an estimation only.



Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2000 – 30 June 2001



Q1 2001-02 Fatalities by State



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES from 1 July – 30 September 2001 only

There have been two fatalities during this first quarter:

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND COAL

Mr Graham Jordan, an employee at the Enex (formerly Glencore) Baal Bone Colliery, died on 27 August from injuries sustained after an underground overhead rockfall.

Western Australia – EXTRACTIVE

Mr Howard Harvey, a supervisor at Carabooda Limestone's Cutter Road quarry, was fatally injured in an accident on 13 September involving a machine used to lay out blocks of limestone.

Revision of Fatality Numbers (1999-2000)

The Council has been advised by the WA Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources that there is an additional fatal accident that occurred in 1999-2000. This was not originally included in the statistics because at the time it had not been accepted as a mining fatality. The Department has now decided that it is indeed a mining fatality.

Mr David Poole, a crane driver at Placer Dome Asia Pacific's Granny Smith mine, died in hospital (14 April 2000) from medical complications that resulted from a fractured pelvis sustained in a fall from the deck of his crane nine days prior. He had been working on the crane deck when he lost his balance and fell 1.7 metres to the ground.

This increases the number of fatalities for the 1999-2000 reporting year to 19.

SAFETY NEWS *continued from page 1*

BENGALLA MINING CASE STUDY

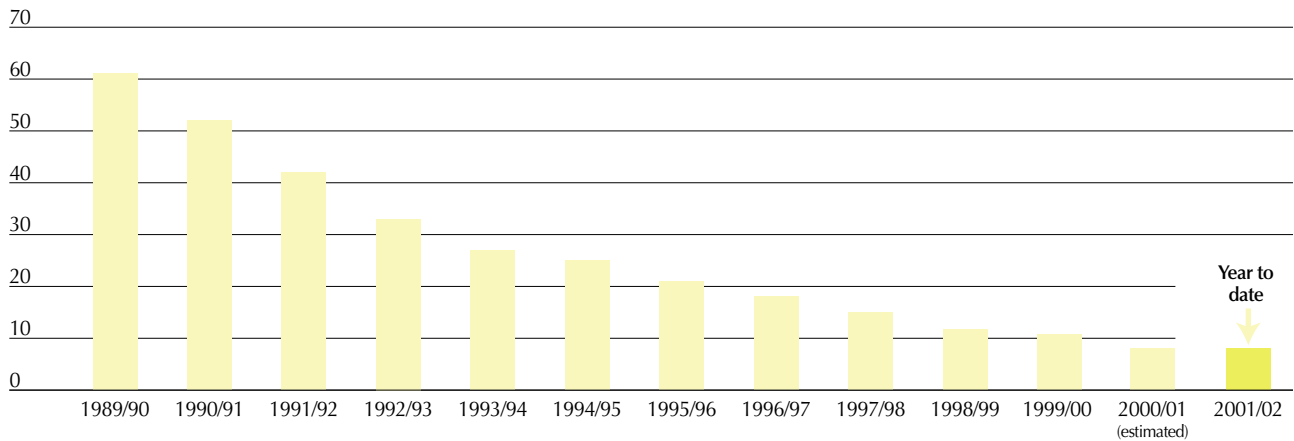
Through the MINEX Awards, the Council seeks to drive the improvement of the industry's safety and health performance by identifying and promoting best practice. To effectively share this

information throughout the industry, the Council produces and publishes case studies of MINEX Award recipients.

The case study featuring Bengalla Mining will also be available mid-January and makes inspiring reading.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 30 September 2001

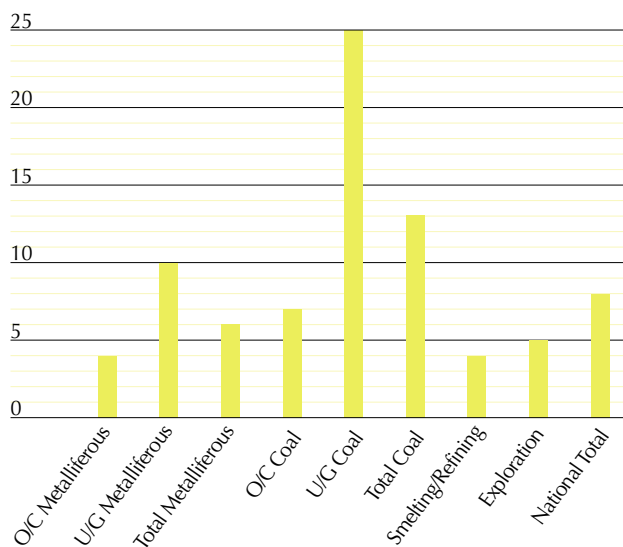


The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first quarter is estimated at eight. This compares favourably with the LTIFR of 11 for the minerals industry in the previous year.

When compared to last year's first quarterly survey, the LTIFR for open-cut metalliferous has improved slightly (from five to four) but for underground metalliferous the rate has significantly declined and stands at ten. Open-cut coal LTIFR has improved to a rate of seven and underground coal remains stable at 25. Smelting/refining and exploration remain relatively stable at four and five respectively.

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

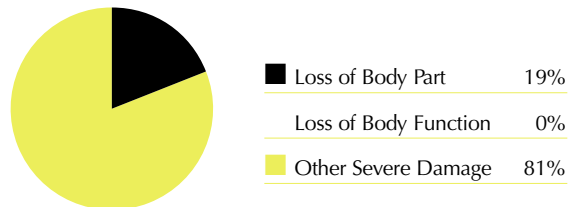
LTIFR By Sector 1 July 2000 – 30 September 2001



MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Thirty-one (31) severe injuries were reported for the first quarter. Survey responses indicated that there were six losses of body parts (all finger amputations); no loss of body function; and twenty-five other severe damage which comprised fractures (13), dislocation (1), burns (5) and six others (eg high pressure fluid injection, lacerations to finger, head, severe bruising, severe head and chest injuries).

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the first quarter of 2001-2002 reporting year, survey responses show a total of 842 medical treatment injuries. For the same quarter last year, the figure stood at 335 medical treatment injuries. Superficial analysis of the large increase in numbers indicates increased company reporting of MTIs (to some extent) and an actual increase in the number of MTIs occurring (to a greater extent).

There were 43 LTIs greater than 10 days recorded which is within the range of 35-47 for each of the four quarters last year.

TOTAL RECORDABLE INJURIES

As the Australian minerals industry moves towards its vision of an industry free of fatalities, injuries and diseases, traditional outcome measures, such as fatalities and lost time injuries and their frequency rates, are declining. Whilst this news is positive for the industry, a set of consistently low numbers is not a statistically satisfactory measurement of the industry safety and health performance.

The industry is well aware of the shortcomings of the LTIFR measure and is working in a voluntary and proactive way to improve safety and health performance by reporting broader outcomes measures. One such measure likely to be implemented by the Council is the proposed Total Recordable Injuries (TRI) which includes fatalities, lost time injuries and medical treatment cases, but excludes first aid cases. For further information and definitions, visit the Council's website www.minerals.org.au and click on *Safety & Health*.

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 2001 MINEX Awards, Bengalla Mining Company.

COAL & ALLIED/RIO TINTO AUSTRALIA – BENGALLA MINING COMPANY

Type of Operation

Construction of the open-cut Bengalla mine began in late 1996 and mining activities began in August 1998. The first delivery of steaming coal, for use by the power generation industry, was in April 1999. From the outset, the operation was managed by Peabody Resources. However in January 2001 Coal & Allied, a Rio Tinto group company, assumed management responsibility for the mine on behalf of the Joint Venture Partners. The mine was established with the vision of being a world leader in the mining and supply of coal and currently has approximately 190 employees.

Location

The mine is located in a rural setting adjacent to the Hunter River approximately 4 km from the township of Muswellbrook located in the NSW Hunter Valley.

Safety and Health Contact

Mr Bob Caslick
Safety Adviser
Phone: 02 6542 9500

Safety and Health Strengths

- Establishment of *BeSafe* – Bengalla’s safety and health management system – to record, track and measure performance.
- Each business unit is required to prepare a safety management plan for the site.
- Annual safety summit attended by representatives of the whole workforce.
- Safety audits/observation by all employees – from general manager to technician.
- Utility days – every employee once per month – are used to identify continuous improvement opportunities.
- Performance assessments are completed six-monthly to provide feedback on accountability and performance; 180-degree assessments are also conducted.
- “Real time” monitoring for dust, vibration and noise impacts on the community

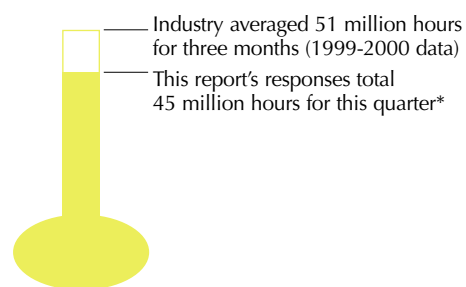
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank all reporting companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, the Joint Coal Board, 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 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 – see above for one such revision.

Note: The Joint Coal Board (JCB) 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 the JCB 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 (2000-01) are compared with official industry exposure hours for 1999-2000, a figure of 88% 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 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