

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 2000 –
31 DECEMBER 2000

SUMMARY

- Two (2) fatalities were recorded in the second quarter of the 2000-2001 reporting year, bringing the number of deaths in the industry to five for the half-year.
- Both fatalities occurred in underground coal.
- The total industry LTIFR for the first half of the year is estimated at 7, which is:
 - the same rate as indicated in the first quarter;
 - significantly lower than this time last year when the rate was 11; and
 - lower than the total industry LTIFR for 1999-2000 of 11.
- LTIFR by sector shows improvement over the same half-year period last year in every sector except open-cut coal (12 this half-year versus 11 in the same period last year), although open-cut coal's second quarter LTIFR shows distinct improvement to a rate of 8.

SAFETY NEWS

1999-2000 SAFETY AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN MINERALS INDUSTRY

The Council will release the 1999-2000 Safety and Health Performance Report in April. This year's report will feature a retrospective analysis of fatality data over the past ten years. It is hoped that, by sharing information and learnings from the Report, ways will be found to bring us closer to *an Australian minerals industry free of fatalities, injuries and diseases*.

2001 SAFETY AND HEALTH CATASTROPHIC RISK CONFERENCE

The Council will hold its annual safety and health conference on Thursday 21 June 2001 at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, Adelaide. The conference will focus on effective catastrophic risk management. A conference program is expected to be available in late April.

On the evening before, 20 June, the National Safety and Health Innovation Awards presentation dinner will be held at the same venue.

2001 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS – UPDATE

The number of applications to participate in this year's MINEX Awards has more than doubled and applicants are now preparing their submission.

However, with the increased number of applicants comes the parallel increased number of evaluators required. This year, evaluator numbers do not yet match applicants. Consequently the Council is pursuing every opportunity to encourage any OH&S practitioner – from operator to manager, no matter what level – to nominate as a MINEX Evaluator.

Information on the requirements and time commitment can be found in the document *How do I become a MINEX Evaluator?*, downloadable from the Council's website www.minerals.org.au (click on *Safety & Health*) or by emailing Del Da Costa at d.dacosta@minerals.org.au

TARONG COAL 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 winners and other mineral sites recognised in the MINEX Awards.

The case study featuring Tarong Coal, recipient of the 2000 MINEX Award, will be available at the end of March 2001. The booklet will be distributed widely and will also be available from the Council's website. The publication also includes a summary of the safety and health strengths of the other operations that participated in the 2000 Awards.

*“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**

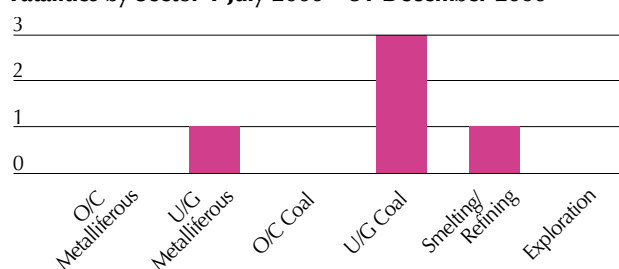
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FATALITIES

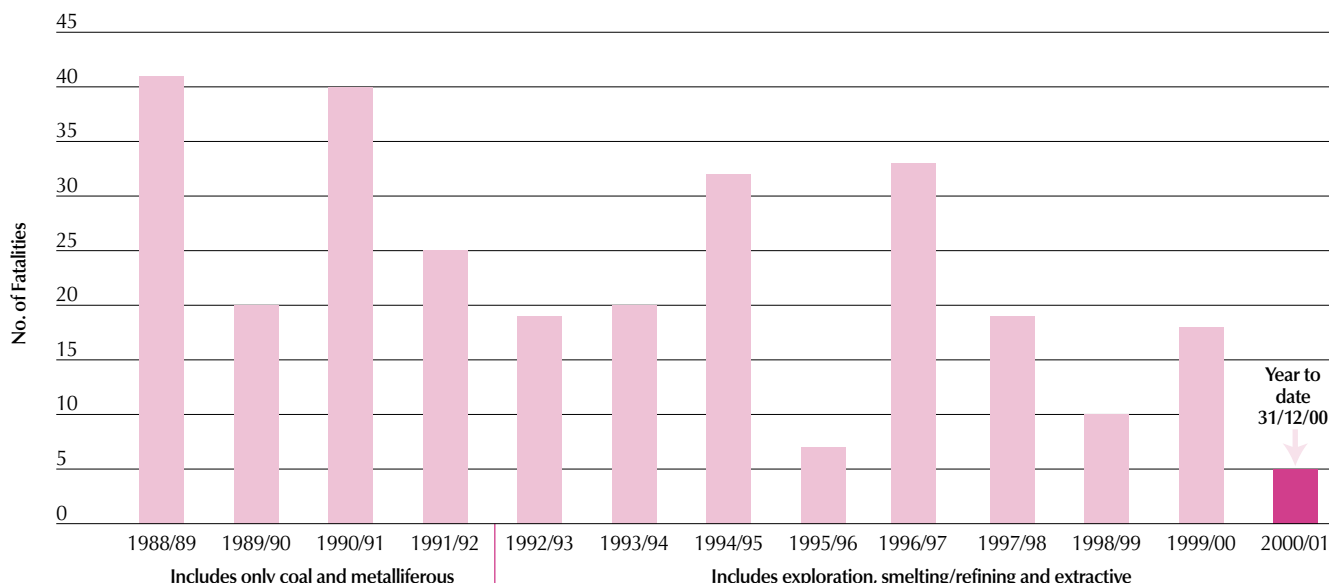
Of the two fatalities which have occurred in the second quarter, both occurred in underground coal: one in NSW, the other in Tasmania.

Fatalities by Sector 1 July 2000 – 31 December 2000



Fatalities 1988-89 – 31 December 2000

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



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES from 1 October – 31 December 2000 only

There have been two fatalities this quarter.

Tasmania – UNDERGROUND COAL

Mr Adrian Hayes, a 32-year-old employee at Cornwall Coal's Blackwood mine, was fatally injured while working underground when struck by a rock slab which fell from the mine roof.

New South Wales – UNDERGROUND COAL

Mr Greg Aspinall, 45, was fatally injured after the roof of a mineshaft collapsed at Allied Coal's Bellambi West Colliery

SAFETY NEWS continued

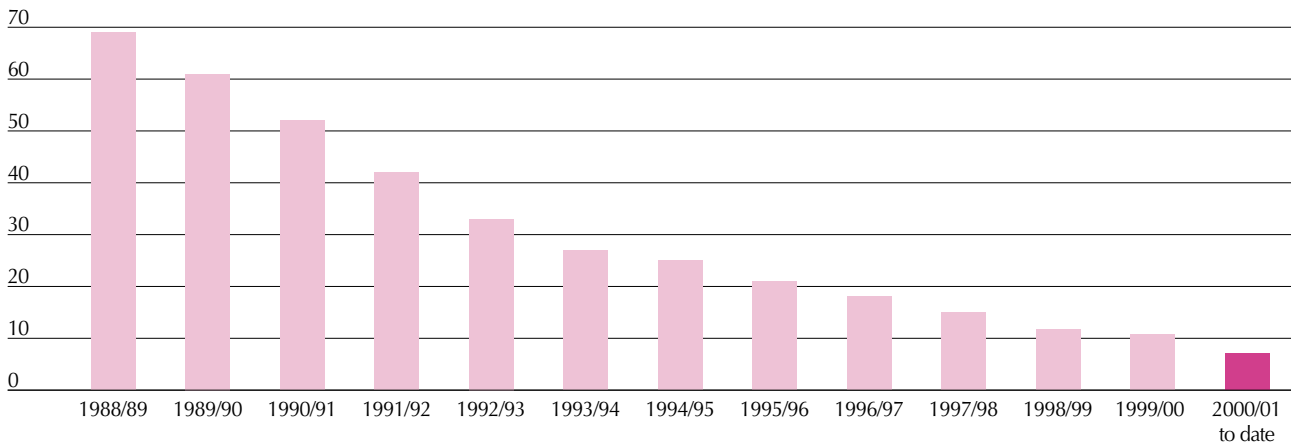
SAFETY ON THE AIRWAVES

Launched in 1998, Red FM is a commercial radio station which transmits to mine sites and oil rigs around Western Australia. Through sponsorship from major minerals companies in WA, 10-second safety messages have been produced as part of a

campaign of short, sharp risk management spots to reach people working around the clock in the minerals industry. The safety messages are based on incident reports collated by the WA Department of Minerals and Energy and are heard by almost 50,000 people throughout the State.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 31 December 2000



The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the first half of this reporting year is estimated at 7. This LTIFR rate of 7 has been sustained for the second consecutive quarter.

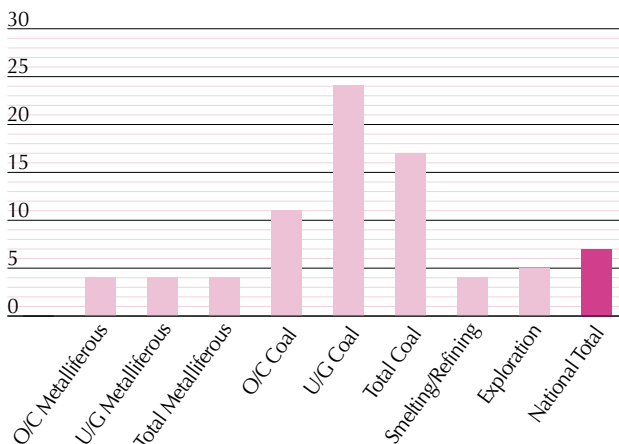
Most sectors show a decrease in LTIFR this quarter. Exceptions are underground metalliferous (a rise to 8 this quarter) and total metalliferous. Smelting/refining remains at a rate of 4.

Underground coal, although continuing to have the highest LTIFR, continues to improve from 25 last quarter to 23 this quarter. Open-cut coal has significantly reduced its rate from 15 last quarter to 8 this quarter. These result in a total coal rate of 17 this half-year.

Open-cut metalliferous, smelting/refining and exploration recorded the lowest LTIFR rate this quarter at 4.

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 – 31 December 2000

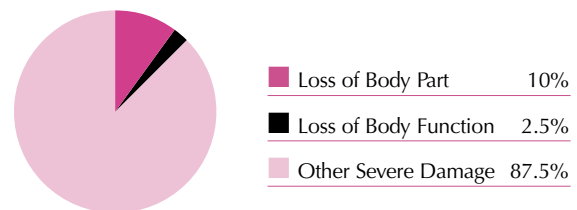


MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Forty (40) severe injuries were reported for the first quarter, bringing the total for the half-year to 63. This compares with the 36 reported in this survey for the whole of the 1999-2000 reporting year.

Survey responses indicated that there were four amputations (fingers, thumb, toes); one loss of body function (sustained back injury/paralysis); and thirty-five other severe damage (lacerations, burns, fractures and crush injuries).

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the second quarter of 2000-2001, survey responses show a total of 657 medical treatment injuries and 47 LTIs greater than 10 days were recorded. Twelve companies recorded double-digit number of MTIs; two companies recorded triple-digit MTIs.

NB: Not all companies record medical treatment injuries and LTIs greater than 10 days. In order to improve reporting and share the task of eliminating injuries, companies are encouraged to record medical treatment injuries if they do not already do so.

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 a highly commended award at the 2000 MINEX Award presentations: Alcoa World Alumina Australia's Pinjarra Refinery.

ALCOA WORLD ALUMINA AUSTRALIA PINJARRA ALUMINA REFINERY

Type of Operation

Pinjarra Alumina Refinery is the largest refinery of the Alcoa World Alumina Group and is the second largest alumina refinery in the world. The operation produces in excess of 3 million tonnes of alumina per annum and employs approximately 1400 personnel including 300 contractors.

Location

The refinery is located adjacent to the township of Pinjarra, approximately 80km south of Perth.

Safety and Health Contact

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Environment Safety and Health Manager
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Safety and Health Strengths

- OHS is seen to have a high priority at Pinjarra. It is well supported and resourced by the manager and management team.
- Pinjarra has a deliberate strategy of an informal face-to-face people focus at crew level for OHS and business management in general. The site has developed a culture that fosters employee involvement and initiative, and employees are seen to be integrally involved in OHS strategies across the site.
- The Pinjarra OHS approach is supported by strong systems, at the corporate and site level.
- Alcoa has in place a systematic audit system whereby employees carry out audits at other Alcoa sites, national and international, according to internal Alcoa audit protocols. This facilitates benchmarking and standard-setting across the organisation.
- Safety Training Enhancement Program (STEP), a behavioural improvement program, is designed to train employees to observe, identify and help correct behavioural issues within work teams.
- A Learning Management System (LMS) is being progressively introduced across the refinery. The LMS has improved training from ad hoc classroom-type training to one where competencies and skills are identified and transferred in a structured learning environment.
- A major hazard review has been conducted across the whole site. The hazard control process is then audited using the Alcoa Self Assessment Tool which also serves as an improvement mechanism.

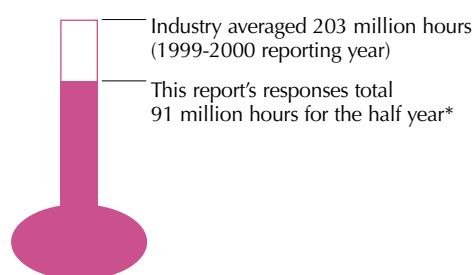
METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 33 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.

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 from the first half of this reporting year (2000-01) are compared with industry exposure hours for 1999-2000 pro rata, a figure of 90% coverage of this report is indicated. However, the Council believes that this figure overestimates the report's coverage. A fairer estimate would be that this report typically covers 72% of the industry.

This document can be found on the Council's website:
www.minerals.org.au

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