

Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 1999 –
31 DECEMBER 1999

SUMMARY

- In the first half of 1999-00 a total of eight (8) fatalities occurred in the Australia minerals industry. At the same time last year the industry had recorded five (5) fatalities.
- Of the eight fatalities, three occurred in underground coal, four in underground metalliferous and one in open cut metalliferous. All eight fatalities occurred in New South Wales.
- The total industry LTIFR for the first half of the year is estimated at 11, which is the same as this time last year. Metalliferous mining's LTIFR continues to decrease reaching a low of six (6).

SAFETY NEWS

1998-99 SAFETY AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN MINERALS INDUSTRY

The Council will release the 1998-99 Safety and Health Performance Report in early March. The report notes that there were ten fatalities in the Australian minerals industry in 1998-99. This represents an improvement over the previous year (19 deaths) but falls short of the objective of zero fatalities.

The Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for the minerals industry has continued to decline from 15 in 1997-98 to a low of 12 in 1998-99. The total numbers of lost time injuries for metalliferous and coal sectors are very similar: 1083 and 1129 respectively. However, the LTIFRs are very different, with coal recording 25 and metalliferous eight.

The 1998-99 Report will be available from the Mineral Council's web site at www.minerals.org.au or from Sonia Lewis on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or at email: sl.lewis@minerals.org.au

2000 SAFETY AND HEALTH CULTURE CONFERENCE

The Council will hold a Safety and Health Culture Conference on 4-5 April 2000 at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney. This is the first time a conference of this nature has been conducted by the Council. The event will focus on the findings of the 1999 safety culture survey of the Australian minerals industry and aims to create increased awareness, understanding and use of the survey results.

To facilitate effective use of the results by minerals companies and sites, the conference will feature presentations by representatives of companies that have demonstrated strengths on important safety culture factors such as recognition, team-work and risk awareness.

Since publishing the safety culture survey results in mid 1999, the Minerals Council has used the results to develop strategies that address the weaknesses and foster the strengths in order to improve safety culture and therefore safety performance. The 2000 Safety and Health Culture Conference is an important part of that strategy.

The conference is primarily aimed at middle and line management personnel from the minerals industry and will provide participants with valuable interactive learning and networking opportunities.

If you would like to obtain further information about the conference or a registration brochure please visit the Minerals Council's web site at www.minerals.org.au or contact Sonia Lewis on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or at email: sl.lewis@minerals.org.au

2000 MINEX SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS – CALL FOR ENTRIES AND EVALUATORS

The 2000 MINEX Awards criteria and application guidelines have been distributed to all minerals sites within Australia. Those considering an entry this year should note that applications are to be received by **17 March 2000**.

*“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
ACN 008 455 141

SAFETY NEWS continued

The Council is also looking for people who are interested in participating in the Awards process as an Evaluator. There are many benefits in being a MINEX Evaluator. They engage in a significant learning exercise which builds teamwork, leadership, communication and report writing skills and participate in the practical exchange of safety and health best practices. The responsibilities and workload of an Evaluator are demanding but the rewards are great. Specifically, they undertake two training sessions, one in Canberra and the other in Adelaide, conduct desktop assessments of applications, participate in site visits to evaluate peer companies and prepare evaluation reports.

Those wishing to nominate as an Evaluator should contact Sonia Lewis on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or at email: sl.lewis@minerals.org.au

The Awards will be presented on the evening of 5 September 2000 in conjunction with the WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy's Minesafe International Conference which will be held at the Burswood Convention Centre, Perth.

1999 MINEX AWARDS 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 has produced and published several case studies of MINEX Award winners and other mineral sites recognised in the MINEX Awards.

The 1999 MINEX Awards Case Study will be released in late February and will feature Placer Dome Asia Pacific's Osborne Mines, which was the winner of the 1999 MINEX Awards. The case study looks at how Osborne Mines successfully implemented a safety management approach that effectively integrates both safety systems and a behavioural approach.

In a new initiative the 1999 case study also includes a summary of the safety and health strengths of the other operations that participated in the 1999 Awards.

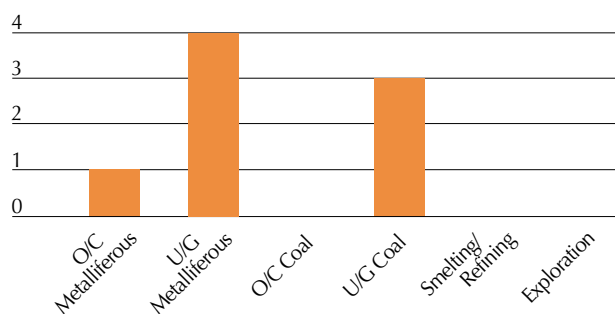
The 1999 MINEX Awards Case Study will be available from the Mineral Council's web site at www.minerals.org.au or from Sonia Lewis on tel: (02) 6279 3600 or at email: sl.lewis@minerals.org.au.

FATALITIES

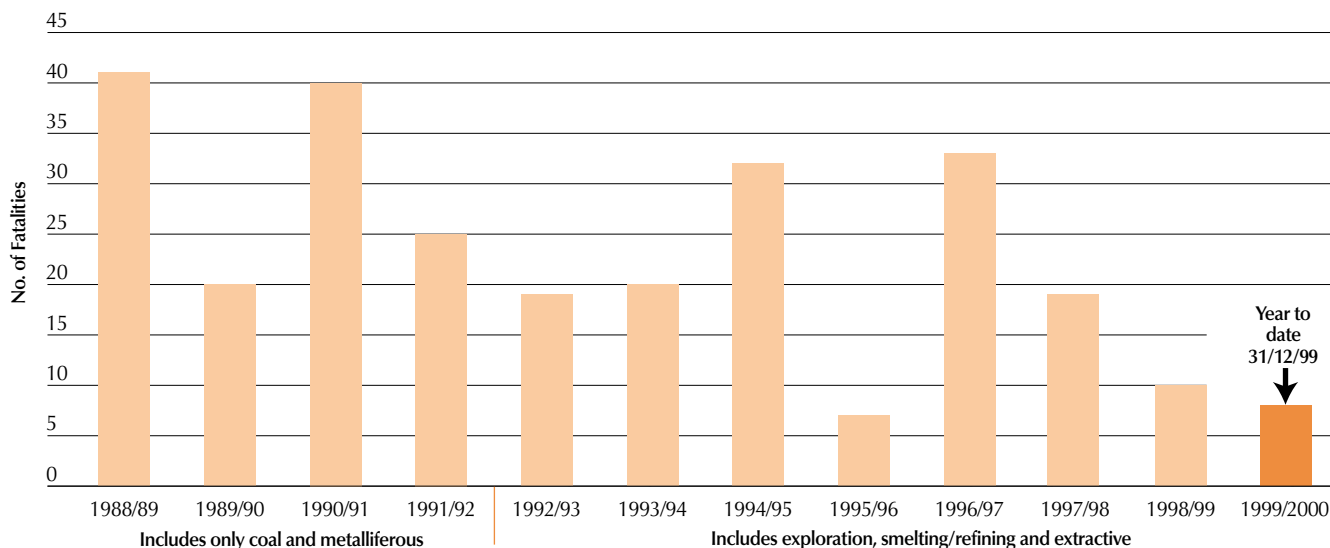
Eight (8) fatalities were recorded in the first half of 1999-00.

Of the eight fatalities, three deaths occurred in underground coal mines, four in an underground metalliferous mine and a single fatality occurred at an open cut metalliferous mine. All fatalities for the first half of 1999-00 occurred in New South Wales mines.

Fatalities by Sector 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999



Fatalities 1988-89 – 31 December 1999



DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES

New South Wales –

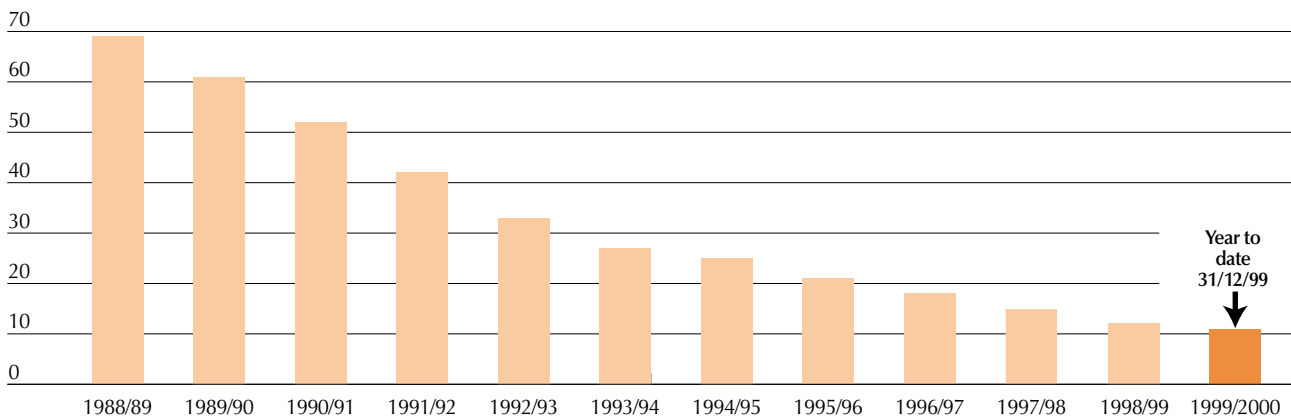
UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

Mr Ross Bodkin, Mr Michael House, Mr Stuart Osmond and Mr Colin Lloyd-Jones were all fatally injured when the block cave mine at Northparkes caved to the surface creating a

massive air blast through an exploration drive that penetrated the cave. The air blast killed all four miners who were in two separate vehicles in the decline. Fifty-seven other personnel were underground at the time with a small number of minor injuries recorded.

LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988/89 – 31 December 1999



The indicative Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) is estimated at 11 for the first half of the 1999-00 year.

The LTIFR for the first half of 1999-00 for the metalliferous sector continues to remain steady at a low of around six (6). Open cut metalliferous continues to improve going from a rate of eight (8) in quarter one to a low of six (6).

Open cut coal continues to decrease with a rate of 11, however underground coal has slightly increased to an LTIFR of 30.

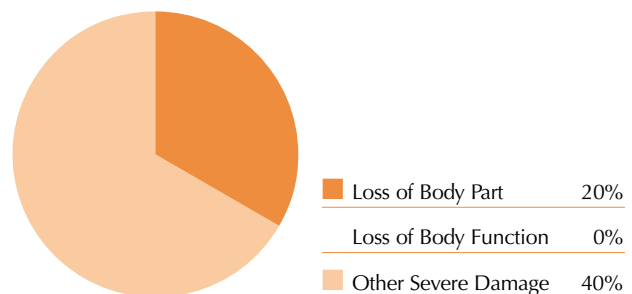
Exploration also has decreased to a rate of five (5), being considerably better than its rate of nine (9) in quarter one.

Given this data covers only two quarters and recognising the limitations of the survey methodology the Council would not wish to draw any findings based on this LTIFR data alone.

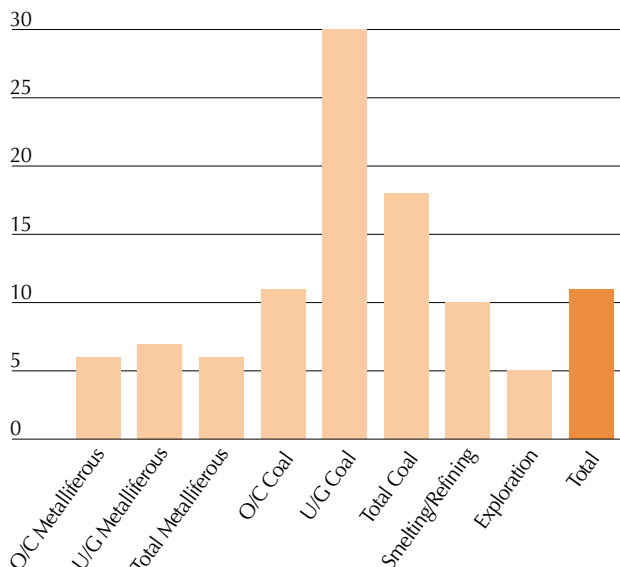
MOST SEVERE INJURIES

Thirteen severe injuries were reported for the first half of 1999-00. Survey responses for the second quarter indicated that there were no loss of body functions, two loss of body part injuries, which in both cases were due to the amputation of the end of fingers, and four cases of other severe damage which were mainly burns.

Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries



LTIFR By Sector 1 July 1999 – 31 December 1999



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the first half of 1999-00 a total of 814 medical treatment injuries and 74 LTIs greater than 10 days were recorded. Please note that not all companies record MTIs and LTIs greater than 10 days.

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 quarter we feature one of the winners of a Commendation Award at the 1999 MINEX Safety and Health Awards – Newcrest Mining's Cadia Hill Gold Mine.

CADIA HILL GOLD MINE

Cadia Hill Gold Mine is a single large open pit gold/copper mine. It is a truck and shovel mining operation with planned material movement of 68 Mt each year and budgeted processing throughput of 17 Mt each year. The mine produces over 300,000 ounces of gold and 23,000 tonnes of copper each year. The mine is located 25 kilometres from Orange in central New South Wales.

SAFETY AND HEALTH STRENGTHS

Cadia Hill has developed a strong and unique safety philosophy, encapsulated by the C.A.D.I.A Safe acronym. This philosophy is underpinned and reinforced by a culture of personal responsibility for individual safety and the safety of others.

An integrated approach toward safety and production exists at Cadia Hill and all meetings are safety meetings. Daily, weekly and monthly integrated production and safety meetings are held. Safety is the first agenda item for every meeting.

Cadia Hill Gold Mine is a team-based business with a flat organisational structure. This is designed to enhance open and honest communication, promote effective decision making at all levels and reduce the effects of old hierarchical and power and control structures. The operation places strong emphasis on personal accountability, leadership and the involvement of its people to promote effective decision making at all levels.

Cadia Hill has a strong focus on its people, their development and the Cadia culture. Recruitment and selection practices employed by the site can be considered best practice. Cadia Hill has elected to choose its employees using an assessment centred process in which people from all levels participate in the selection of their team mates. As a new site, Cadia Hill Gold Mine has taken the opportunity to select the right people to achieve the right results.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The above outline provides only a brief description of some of the safety and health features in place at Cadia Hill Gold Mine. For further information about the above initiatives and other safety and health activities at Cadia Hill, you should contact:

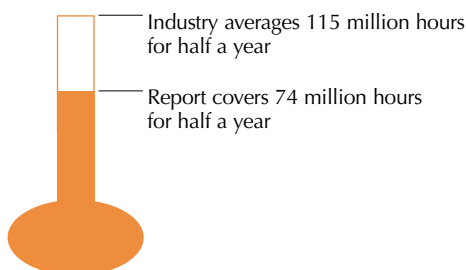
Mr Mike Skeen
Safety and Training Coordinator
Phone: (02) 6392 2373

METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 31 companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, the Joint Coal Board and State/Territory mines departments who supplied information for this report. Given the short time frame within which the data has been collected and collated, the data used is not necessarily reported on a consistent basis. While every effort has been made to obtain data from throughout the industry, the Council estimates (based on exposure hours) that this report covers 64 per cent of the Australian minerals industry and believes this report provides a reasonably good indication of the general safety performance trends in the industry.

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 this report as appropriate.

Report Coverage based on exposure hours



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.

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