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Department of Local Government,  
Industry Regulation and Safety



# Monthly incident insights

## WorkSafe Mines Safety

August 2026 edition

Issued 29 September 2026

**208** notifiable  
incidents in  
August



**10** notifiable  
incidents  
compared to  
July

**166** reportable  
incidents in  
August



**5** reportable  
incidents  
compared to  
July



Three summarised incidents in this edition

Note: Correct as of 14 September 2026.

Report a notifiable incident to  
**1800 678 198**

Report all incidents online  
[SRS – Safety Regulation System](#)

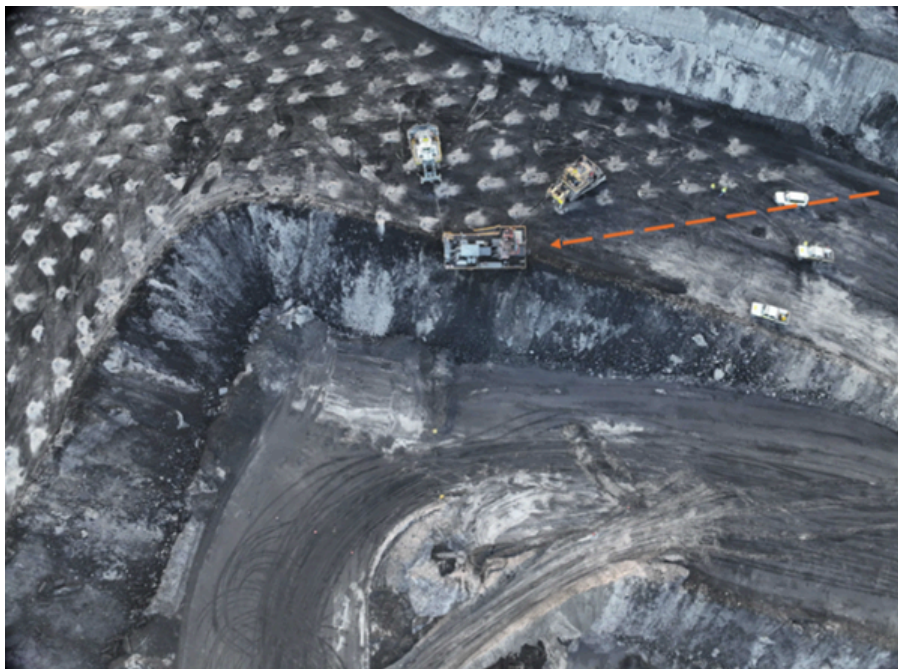
## Reportable incidents

### Drill rig breaches windrow at bench edge

A worker narrowly avoided serious injury after a drill rig breached a windrow and became exposed to an approximately 10-metre drop-off while repositioning to commence blast-hole drilling during nightshift.

The operator was reversing the drill rig while monitoring the drill plan on an in-cab GPS tablet. During the manoeuvre, the machine breached the bench-edge windrow and came to rest at an estimated 20-degree angle, with one track remaining on the bench and the other embedded in the batter slope below. The operator exited safely, and two dozers secured the drill rig before recovery.

The incident shows how mobile plant can rapidly enter rollover and fall exposures when operators divide attention between vehicle movement and operational information. Workers operating near bench edges rely on situational awareness, effective edge protection, adequate visibility and operator aids to prevent equipment encroaching into high-consequence areas.



Approximate path of travel



Drill rig over edge

## Takeaways

- **Maintain situational awareness:** Continuously monitor direction of travel and surrounding hazards when manoeuvring mobile equipment near bench edges and changes in ground level.
- **Manage in-cab distractions:** Stop equipment in a safe location before reviewing drill plans, GPS displays or other operational information.
- **Use reversing aids effectively:** Apply cameras, mirrors, proximity detection systems and other operator assists to maintain awareness of nearby hazards.
- **Maintain effective edge protection:** Construct and maintain windrows appropriate to the size and type of mobile equipment operating in the area.

- **Provide adequate visibility:** Verify lighting arrangements enable operators to identify bench edges, windrows and changes in ground level during night operations.

## Jumbo boom strikes worker during pump set-up

A worker sustained head, shoulder and upper-body injuries after a jumbo boom struck them while they assisted with positioning an electric water pump in an underground development heading.

A nipper was assisting a jumbo operator to position the pump at the face of the heading. While they were positioning the jumbo booms in preparation to connect the pump, one boom struck the nipper positioned in front of the lifting jacks between the boom and the wall. Site personnel treated the nipper at the scene before transporting them to hospital for further assessment and medical imaging.

The incident shows how routine set-up activities can expose workers to line-of-fire and crush hazards when work teams do not maintain effective separation between people and moving plant. Workers performing tasks around mobile equipment can enter high-risk areas when exclusion zones, communication and worker-location controls do not adequately manage interactions between plant and personnel.



## Takeaways

- **Separate workers from plant:** Establish and maintain exclusion zones whenever mobile plant is operating or repositioning.
- **Maintain positive communication:** Positively confirm every worker's location before moving plant or operating booms.
- **Control line-of-fire hazards:** Keep workers clear of crush zones and areas between moving plant and fixed structures.
- **Plan tasks thoroughly:** Define worker locations, exclusion zones and equipment movements before starting the task.
- **Stop and reassess work:** Review hazards and controls whenever conditions or task requirements change.
- **Verify competency and supervision:** Confirm workers have the training, competency and oversight required for plant interaction activities.

## Geotextile roll falls during trailer unloading

A worker narrowly avoided injury after a roll of geotextile material fell approximately 1.6 metres from a trailer during unloading activities.

Workers were unloading seven rolls of geotextile material from a delivery trailer using an IT loader fitted with tynes. After identifying difficulties accessing the load safely, they adopted an alternative retrieval method that required work inside an area designated as a no-go zone under the Safe Work Method Statement. While a spotter released a centre tie-down strap from the opposite side of the trailer, stored tension in the load restraint system released unexpectedly and caused a geotextile roll to fall to the ground.

The incident shows how tasks can rapidly expose workers to falling-load and line-of-fire hazards when conditions differ from the planned work method and work teams do not reassess hazards and controls before continuing. Workers can increase their exposure to uncontrolled load movement when they change task sequences, enter exclusion zones or continue work without escalating unexpected conditions for review.



## Takeaways

- **Plan unloading activities carefully:** Assess the sequence for releasing restraints to maintain load stability throughout unloading.
- **Follow approved work methods:** Conduct unloading activities in accordance with the Safe Work Method Statement and approved procedures.
- **Stop and reassess work:** Review hazards, controls and approval requirements when conditions differ from the planned task.
- **Recognise stored-energy hazards:** Treat tensioned straps, chains and load restraint systems as potential sources of unexpected energy release.
- **Maintain exclusion zones:** Position workers outside potential fall zones and areas where loads may move unexpectedly.
- **Escalate concerns early:** Engage supervision when workers cannot access or unload a load safely using the planned method.
- **Exercise stop-work authority:** Pause the task when workers encounter conditions that differ from the risk assessment or prevent them from maintaining controls.

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