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Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety



Monthly incident insights

WorkSafe Mines Safety

December 2025 edition

Issued 20 January 2026

179 notifiable
incidents in
December

138 reportable
incidents in
December

 **34** notifiable
incidents
compared to
November

 **20** reportable
incidents
compared to
November



Three summarised incidents in this edition

Note: Correct as of 15 January 2026.

Report a notifiable incident to
1800 678 198

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

Recent prosecutions

Mining services company fined \$750,000 over crush injury

Mining services company MLG Oz Limited has been fined \$750,000—and ordered to pay \$6,702.70 in costs—at Perth Magistrates Court over an April 2022 incident at Evolution Mining (Mungari) Pty Ltd's Mungari gold mine 20km west of Kalgoorlie in which

a heavy diesel mechanic suffered a serious crush injury and a left humerus fracture.

MLG Oz pleaded guilty to contravening sections 19(1) and 31(1) of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*. The company failed to ensure, so far as was reasonably practicable, the health and safety of a worker, a failure that caused serious harm to an individual.

Read the [media release](#) and the [prosecution summary](#) on the WorkSafe website for more information about the conviction.

Reportable incidents

Falling light fixture narrowly misses worker

An eight-kilogram LED light fixture fell from a workshop's five-metre-high ceiling and narrowly missed hitting a worker. There were no records of either inspections or maintenance of the LED light fixtures since their installation three years earlier. The incident didn't result in an injury, but it had the potential to cause serious harm.





Actions

- The workshop area was barricaded immediately.
- An electrical contractor was engaged to inspect the workshop's light fixtures.
- A site-wide audit of light fixtures was scheduled.

Takeaways

- Inspect fixed and suspended equipment, including lighting, and record inspection and maintenance activities.
- Ensure suspension and mounting systems are rated appropriately for loads and installed in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Consider secondary retention systems, such as safety chains or catenary wires, to prevent falling objects if primary fixings fail.

Summary

Ageing infrastructure and fit-and-forget installations can introduce serious falling object hazards over time. Regular inspections, maintenance and verification of load-bearing fixtures are essential to prevent unexpected failures and protect workers from high-consequence injuries.

Steam release burns worker

A worker sustained thermal burns when they opened a steam ventilation valve located below a ventilation discharge pipe. Water trapped in the vent piping had been heated inadvertently. When the worker opened the valve, the released hot water landed on their back and right shoulder.



Actions

- The area was isolated, and the steam system was secured.
- The injured worker was transported to a hospital, where they were treated and monitored.
- The incident was investigated to determine contributing factors and system deficiencies.

Takeaways

- Configure steam venting and release systems so workers aren't exposed to potential discharges when opening or closing valves.

- Incorporate guarding, shields or remote operation options in systems to prevent burns and other injuries from unexpected steam or hot water discharges.
- Train workers to recognise residual heat hazards and follow safe operating procedures before manipulating valves.

Summary

Steam and thermal systems can present high-consequence hazards, even during routine operations. Safe system design, including effective isolation and protective measures, is essential to prevent burns and other serious injuries. Workers must not encounter exposures to potential steam or hot water releases.

Employers address inappropriate behaviour

A mine operator received a complaint from a direct employee regarding the repeated inappropriate and unwanted behaviour of a contractor-employed worker. The contractor-employed worker asked colleagues about the affected worker's whereabouts frequently and made disparaging remarks, some of which they posted on social media. The contractor-employed worker continued their behaviour after the affected worker told them to stop.

Actions

- An internal investigation confirmed the inappropriate conduct, and the contractor-employed worker was stood down pending a mental health evaluation.
- After clearing their mental health evaluation, the contractor-employed worker was assigned to another site and placed on a performance

management plan addressing workplace behaviour.

- The contracting company conducted site-wide retraining sessions that covered psychosocial hazards and risk factors, codes of conduct, bystander awareness and reporting channels.
- The mine operator reviewed risk assessments and controls for bullying, harassment, violence and aggression.

Takeaways

- Act promptly when witnessing or experiencing inappropriate behaviour to prevent it escalating.
- Identify, assess and control psychosocial hazards, including interpersonal conflict and coercive behaviour.
- Encourage bystanders to recognise and report harassment, even when the behaviour doesn't affect them directly.
- Reinforce expectations that workplace behaviour standards extend to online and electronic communications.
- Ensure workers have clear, confidential avenues to raise concerns and access support.

Summary

Persistent inappropriate behaviour can create high-risk psychosocial hazards. A proactive approach, which combines early intervention, robust training, bystander engagement and confidential reporting, is essential to maintaining safe, respectful and psychologically healthy workplaces.

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