



Blasting practices

Issued July 2017

Using explosives can be a hazardous process. Possible hazards include fly rock from a blast, fumes, misfires, breach of the exclusion zone and effects that extend past the mine boundary.

The Department's main concern is the safety and health of the site workers and public safety. The results of unsafe blasting practices could result in serious injuries or fatalities.

This snapshot covers blasting-related incidents for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

For more information about explosives and blasting practices, visit our website www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

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Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Notifiable incidents by area



15 of the 19 notifiable incidents occurred during **surface operations**



Injuries by severity



that were identified as blasting related were **classified as serious**

Injuries by employment type



Some recent incidents

Potentially serious occurrence: Fly rock 23/03/2017

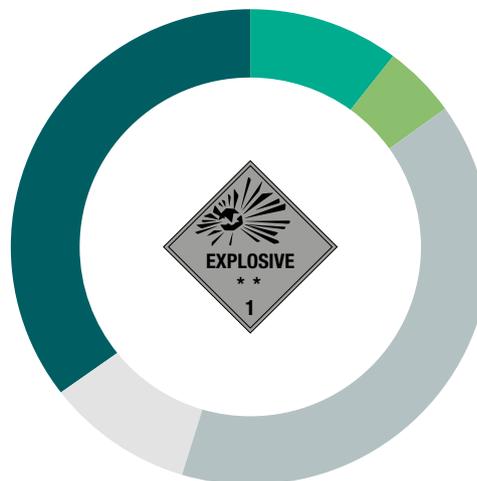
During blasting of a re-drilled pattern in an open pit, a piece of fly rock, ~10 cm in diameter, was observed breaching the exclusion zone. The fly rock travelled 588 m before coming to rest on a haul road near to where the blast guard and service cart were positioned.



Potentially serious occurrence: Blast exclusion zone 01/11/2016

On completion of a blast in an open pit, it was determined that the firing point was well inside the blast exclusion zone. A survey of the location indicates that the vehicle was 216 m from the closest hole.

Notifiable incidents by reporting category



- 35%** Extensive subsidence, settlement or fall of ground or any major collapse
- 10%** Earth movement caused by seismic event
- 5%** Potentially serious occurrence
- 40%** Outbreak of fire above or below ground
- 10%** Accidental, delayed or fast ignition or detonation of explosives

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 250



Unexpected initiation of detonator and detonating cord

8 February 2017

Key message:

Always reassess hazards and risks when equipment or activities change.