



Abandoned Mine Features



Report abandoned mine features to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety via email to AbandonedMines@dmirs.wa.gov.au or complete the online form at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

Government of Western Australia

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

8.30 am – 4.30 pm

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Tel: +61 8 9222 3333
Fax: +61 8 9222 3862

Online

Website: www.dmirs.wa.gov.au
Email: online@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Mailing address

Locked Bag 100
East Perth WA 6892

National Relay Service: 13 36 77
Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 13 14 50
This publication is available in other formats on request to assist people with special needs.

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Stay Out, Stay Safe and Report

Did you know the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has recorded more than 190,000 abandoned mine features but there could be many more?

Abandoned mine workings are part of the heritage of Western Australia where mining began more than 150 years ago.

In the past, some miners simply left sites without attempting to make them safe, while others have deteriorated, despite originally being secured many years ago.

These abandoned mine features can be a hazard to people enjoying outdoor activities including walking, cycling, camping or caravanning, and prospecting.

The Department of Mines, Industry, Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) has recorded more than 190,000 abandoned mine features but there could be many more that are yet to be listed.

An inventory of abandoned mines features is available on the website at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au. Members of the public can report abandoned mine features to the department via email to AbandonedMines@dmirs.wa.gov.au or complete the online form.

Any recording of information should be done at a safe distance - do not enter abandoned mines.

The department takes a state-wide approach to assessing risks and prioritising the management and/or rehabilitation of features and as such, sites identified may not be immediately addressed.

What is an abandoned mine feature?

Abandoned mine features are disturbances to the land caused by mining and/or exploration such as mine shafts, waste landforms, buildings and abandoned equipment for which no individual, company or organisation can be held responsible for rehabilitation. An abandoned mine site may comprise multiple features.

What are the hazards?

Poison gas, snakes, disease-causing microbes, dangerous tunnels – these are just some of the risks lurking in WA's abandoned mines.

Other potential dangers include falls from heights, entrapment and drowning where voids have filled with water.

Vegetation or debris can hide dangerous vertical openings while old mine workings or structures may become unstable and collapse when disturbed.

Waste rock heaps can be prone to landslides and, although explosives are supposed to be removed or disposed of on mine closure, some abandoned sites may contain deteriorating explosives or dangerous materials.

For more detailed information see the department's *Old mine workings* pamphlet.



What should I do if I come across an abandoned mine feature?

Do not enter or disturb the site.

If you see an abandoned mine feature, keep clear, but make sure you tell us about it to help us to spread the word about the danger of abandoned mines.

The advice is simple – Stay Out, Stay Safe and Report.