

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

IN THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
MINERAL INDUSTRY 2017-18

INJURIES BY AREA



835 of the 1,047 LTIs and RWIs which occurred during surface mining operations were classified as serious

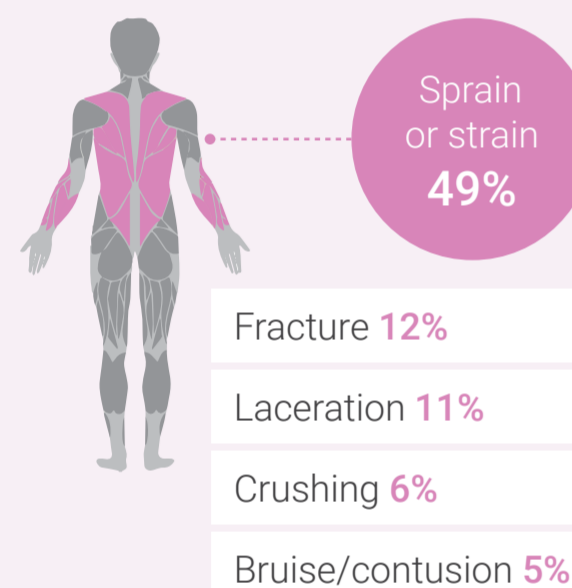


110 of the 161 LTIs and RWIs which occurred during underground mining operations were classified as serious

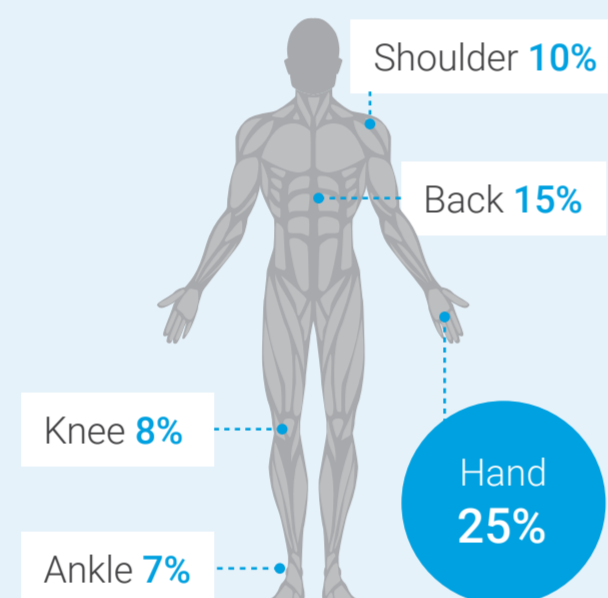


20 of the 40 LTIs and RWIs which occurred during exploration operations were classified as serious

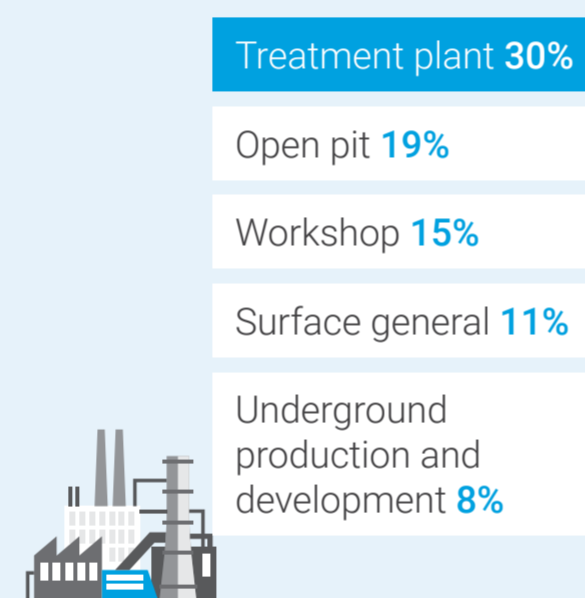
Nature of injury* (top 5)



Part of body* (top 5)

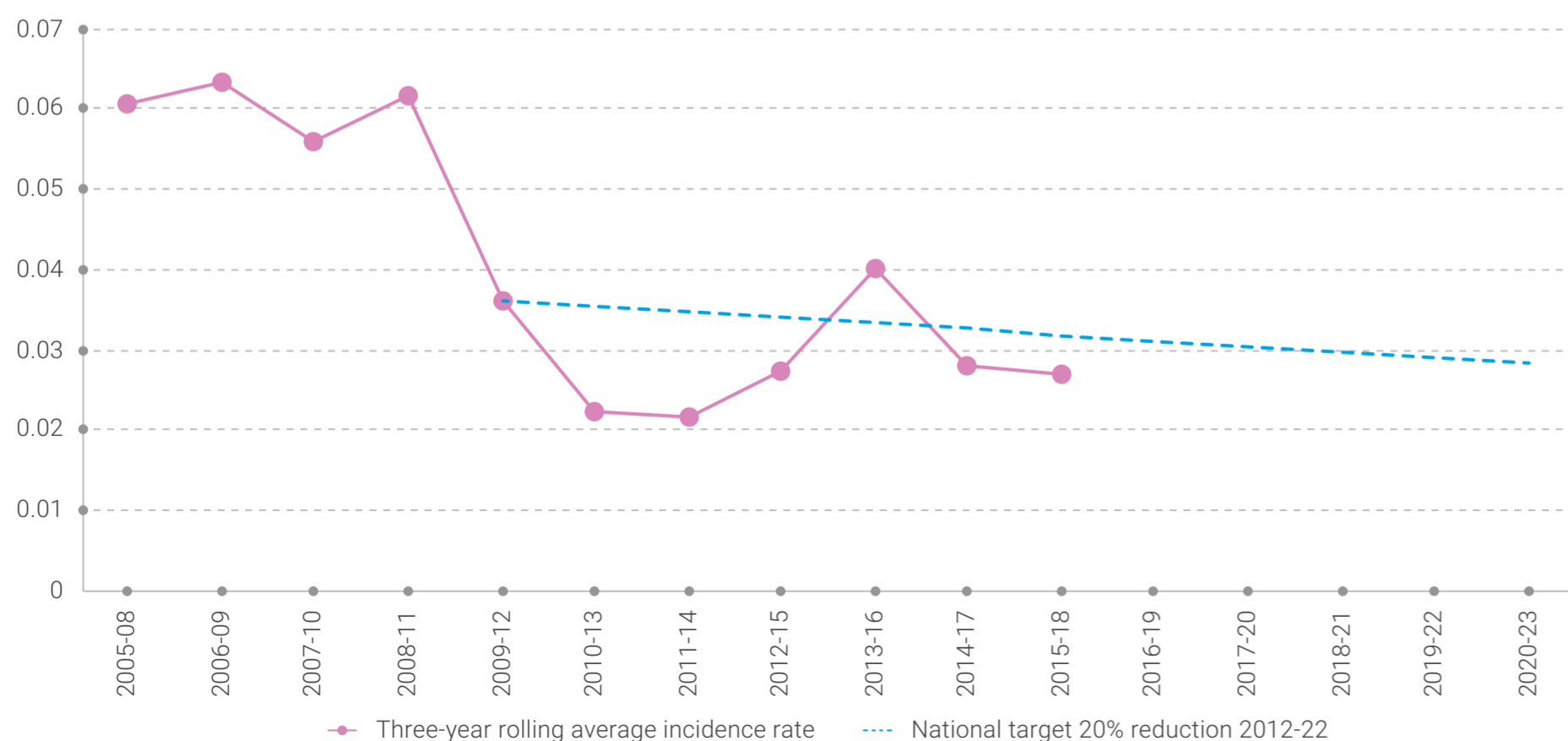


Location* (top 5)



* Note: For mining and exploration, includes LTIs and RWIs

MINING AND EXPLORATION FATALITIES PER 1,000 EMPLOYEES



Employees and contractors



Company employees
for mining and exploration

43,968 workers worked
47% of hours

689 injuries reported



Contractor employees
for mining and exploration

70,756 workers worked
53% of hours

558 injuries reported

LTIFRs

Mining



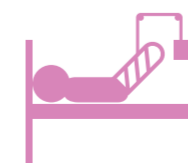
33% increase in LTIFR for iron ore sector to 1.4

8% decrease in LTIFR for gold sector to 1.9

52% decrease in LTIFR for nickel sector to 1.9

30% decrease in LTIFR for bauxite and alumina sector to 5.6

Exploration



33% increase in LTIFR to 3.2

Fatal accidents



4 fatal accidents

Mining

A 34 year old surveyor was conducting field work at a mineral sand mining operation when he apparently suffered a severe allergic reaction following a bee sting he received. He had been working alone and reported an emergency shortly after being stung and self-administered an EpiPen. He was found unconscious and unresponsive by co-workers responding to the emergency call. The site medic and St John's Ambulance were also called and first aid, including CPR and defibrillation, was administered. He was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital where he subsequently died.

Exploration

A senior field technician was conducting exploration reconnaissance on a remote tenement when he collapsed, became unconscious and could not be resuscitated. He had walked approximately 16 km both on that day and on the previous day, over rough terrain, in temperatures up to 37°C. He had complained of leg cramps at the end of the previous day, but reported he felt fine and well enough to conduct fieldwork at the prestart on the day of the incident. The cause of death was determined to be the combined effects of dehydration and renal failure.

Related safety alert

[Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 257 Field technician collapses during exploration activities – fatal accident](#)

A 42 year old face shovel operator at a coal operation died after being caught between the hydraulic access ladder and a hand rail when the ladder rotated. The face shovel had been loading a haul truck when it suddenly lost power. The pit face had collapsed, and overburden material had rilled against the side and rear of the shovel. This appears to have put tension on the pull-wire of the emergency shutdown switch, which is located next to the emergency access ladder pull-wire switch.

The deceased investigated the loss of engine power and it appears that he was attempting to reset the switch from the shovel walkway when the ladder activated.

Related safety alert

[Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 261 Face shovel operator crushed between ladder and handrail – fatal accident](#)

An 82 year old company director was found deceased at a quarry by WA Police conducting a welfare check, as he had not called in to his office or family for a number of days. The mine was on care and maintenance.

There were no witnesses to the incident. The circumstantial evidence at the scene suggested that he had fallen from a service truck deck onto the ground.

No cause of death has been formally determined at this time.

DEFINITIONS

Frequency rate (FR)

Number of injuries per million hours worked

Lost time injury (LTI)

Work injury that results in an absence from work for at least one full day or shift any time after the day or shift on which the injury occurred

Serious injury

Work injury that results in the injured person being disabled for a period of two weeks or more

Restricted work injury (RWI)

Work injury (not LTI) that results in the injured person being unable to fully perform their ordinary occupation (regular job) any time after the day or shift on which the injury occurred, regardless of whether or not the person is rostered to work, and where alternative or light duties are performed or hours are restricted

For more detailed information on safety performance, see the annual compilations at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

National target for fatalities from *The Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022* available on Safe Work Australia website.