

Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Safety and Health

Explosives Inspectorate

For : January 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Blasting	2 bags of ANFO	While driving along the main decline a drill crew found two bags of ANFO explosives lying on the ground, at different locations. The ANFO had fallen off an explosives transport vehicle, which was carrying more bags of explosives than permitted by the relevant procedure.
Theft of explosives			None reported for January

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Eleven misfires were reported for January – 3 procedure error, 2 initiation system failures, 1 blasting method, 1 bulk product failure, 1 column dislocation and 3 unknown.

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Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Fireworks	Fireworks	An unexploded 3" mortar was found aboard a spectator vessel after a fireworks display at a resort island. Initial report suggested the item landed on the vessel, however after further investigation it would appear that a passenger noticed the item floating at the side of the vessel and picked it up.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	While drilling over-sized rocks for future secondary blasting, two holes were drilled in a large rock. The driller checked the other side of the rock and found two holes with non-electric detonator leads protruding. Each hole contained a half-plug of Buster explosives with a detonator inserted in each.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A charge crew member was in the process of moving a light vehicle out of the way to allow an MMU to proceed along the shot row. The light vehicle ran over a box of boosters that had been placed on the ground with 4 other boxes of boosters. Damage was sustained to a number of the boosters.

Chief Inspector of Explosives

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Safety and Health

Explosives Inspectorate

For : February 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for February
Theft of explosives			None reported for February
Other			None reported for February

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Twelve misfires reported for the month – 3 slumping, 2 column dislocation, 2 initiation system failures, 1 blasting method, 1 procedure error, 3 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	One misfire was considered a High Potential Incident, when rock fell from a highwall and damaged the line, causing the misfire
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	When unloading bagged SSAN at an Explosive Reserve, it was found that some of the bags were damaged, allowing loose SSAN to spill inside the wrapping and out onto the deck of the flat top trailer. Also found was one pallet of bags containing contaminated SSAN.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Three flyrock incidents reported. In one, a 10kg rock flew 800m from the shot landing on a dragline erection pad. In another incident, flyrock from a blast at a ramp damaged an overland conveyor
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	A B-double became bogged with 38 tonnes of ANE on board after deviating from the designated route.

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Explosives Inspectorate

For : March 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported
Theft of explosives			None reported
Other			None reported

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Eleven misfires reported – 5 blasting method, 3 initiation system failures, 1 loading method, 1 bulk product failure, 1 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock from a quarry landed on a residence at a retirement village
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock from the northern portal of the Clem Jones Tunnel damaged a vehicle parked on a nearby street
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	The operator of a charge car noticed smoke coming from smouldering wires. The vehicle was shut down and the smouldering stopped
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	After blast guards were in place, and during the OCE's final clearance check, he asked the dragline personnel to check their area. They noticed a person standing near the dragline and drove over to investigate. This person was the shotfirer and as they approached him, they drove over the lead in line.
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	While loading a shipping container with pallets of Magnum, the last pallet of product into the container caught the timber lining and ripped open 4 boxes of product. No product was damaged, only the boxes.

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For : April 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	SSAN	13 kg	Thirteen kilograms of SSAN was spilt as the result of operator error whilst unloading bulka bags from a container for road transport.
Theft of explosives			None reported for the month
Other	Blasting	None lost or stolen	While driving on a shot a det box door came open and contacted with the other shot vehicle, twisting the det box door. New det/booster boxes have been ordered for the shot utes as the catches on the current boxes are worn with age and prone to coming undone.

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Eight misfires – 4 initiation system failures, 1 slumping, 3 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Staff were clearing for a blast when a contract employee drove past a blast guard which was clearly marked and sited at 90 degrees to the road.
Personal injury	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A blast crew was working on a blast when a rock fell from the high wall and hit an operator on the leg, bruising the calf muscle.

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For : May 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Fireworks	1 carton	A box of indoor fireworks was reported missing from a road shipment from Queensland to Victoria
	SSAN	70 kg	A quantity of SSAN was spilt from a container on a rail wagon
Theft of explosives	Fireworks	20 single tubes	Police arrested three youths and an adult for possession of illegal fireworks. Suspects claimed they had stolen them from a display at another place.
Other			None reported for month

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Seventeen misfires, one a High Potential Incident. 6 initiation system failures, 4 procedures, 1 slumping, 1 stemming, 5 unknown
Personal injury	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Upon firing a misfired single hole, a piece of flyrock penetrated a light vehicle's windscreen and struck an employee. Injuries included minor bruising to the upper right leg and minor glass cuts to the right hand.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Three fitters were working in a dragline within a blast exclusion zone. The blast controller swept the area but did not sight the fitters. Approx 1 minute before shot was fired the fitters heard a blast warning but decided to stay in the machine.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Unauthorised access when the Site Safety & Health Representative and an Industry S&H rep drove past a blast sign into a blast area without authority.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	When collaring a production hole, a longhole was drilled through a misfire in the floor of the drive that had been left behind during development.

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None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A shot firer and his assistant were on the coal doing a final check and preparing to run out the lead-in line. A sudden downpour occurred and rocks were noticed falling from the highwall. Both men evacuated the pit and following the rain event, returned to the shot to find rocks had rolled across and damaged the det cord. The cord was re-tied and the shot fired at the scheduled time. No misfires resulted.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Prior to the commencement of hooking in a charged shot, a shotfirer drove a utility off the shot and in the process of turning the vehicle around, ran over a conectadet lying on the ground. The conectadet was not hooked in at the time of the incident, and did not initiate.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Rocks became dislodged from a highwall during a rain event and damaged the det cord on a tied-in coal shot.

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For : June 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for the month
Theft of explosives	Fireworks	9 x 4" mines	Arial fireworks were stolen from a box at a transport company's depot. Subsequent investigation discovered the transport company was not approved to carry SSE under the Act, nor did they have a security plan or procedure for instances of theft or loss in transit.
	Railway Distress Signals	Box of 24	A box of distress signals and flares was stolen from a strongbox in a Queensland Rail vehicle

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Ten misfires – 2 slumping, 1 column dislocation, 1 initiation system failure, 1 procedure error, 1 loading error, 4 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	During loading operations in a pit, a temporary endwall failure caused five loaded blast holes to fall into the pit void
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Two blasts were fired at a quarry. Between the two blasts a person contracted to video the blast was relocating the camera for the second blast. Miscommunication via UHF radio gave the belief that the person was clear and the blast was fired. In fact he was still within exclusion zone, 400 metres from the blast. No one was hurt.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Manufacture - vehicle	A fire started in the engine bay of a Mobile Processing Unit

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None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	When moving explosives on a shot, 41 boosters fell out of explosives transport boxes at the rear of the transport vehicle, landing on the ground.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A misfire containing approximately 50 kilograms of bulk explosive was identified in an oversized rock after the rock had been drilled in preparation for secondary blasting.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A stemming truck was reversing on a bench shot when it ran over the downline to a charged hole.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Manufacture - vehicle	The dual rear wheels separated from a Mobile Processing Unit. This MPU had recently had new tyres fitted. It appears that the wheel nuts were tightened while the park brake was engaged. This can cause the brake drum to become oval shaped. When the park brake is released the wheel nuts may loosen.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Transport	While transferring a container from a trailer to a sidelifter, the stabiliser leg of the sidelifter slid into the fuel tank of the prime mover. This caused damage to the prime mover, including to its fuel tank. There were no injuries to personnel nor any damage to explosives in the container.

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For : July 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			A transport company delivered propellant powder to a Government Explosives Reserve. The cart note was for 20 cartons, but only 17 cartons arrived at the GER. Three cartons were misplaced at the Sydney depot.
Theft of explosives	Signage	One EIP sign	Theft of Explosives signage from a trailer parked at a Government Explosives Reserve

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Fifteen misfires reported – 4 column dislocations, 2 procedures, 1 bulk product failure, 1 initiation system failure, 7 unknown. Three are considered High Potential Incidents. One was discovered by an Explosives Inspector, after the mine had failed to notify the Inspectorate as required by the Act.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock from a blast at a coal mine extended past the 800 metre exclusion zone, three rocks ranging in size from tennis ball to football.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A contract employee drove a light vehicle onto a loaded blast area, ignoring barricade and signage. Employee's contract was subsequently terminated.
None	Yes	Propellant powder	Transport	A transport company delivered 86 kg of 1.3C propellant powder to a Government Explosives Reserve, more than the 50 kg limit allowed for transport under low risk loads.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Whilst charging suspected reactive ground, a 15 kg rock fell from the upper bench to where an excavator was doing some cleaning.

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Explosives Inspectorate

For : August 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Fireworks	Two cartons	Fireworks have been reported missing in transit from Brisbane to Townsville.
Theft of explosives	Blasting	14 kg	A shipment of Ammonium Nitrate into a Government Explosives Reserve arrived with two 25kg bags of the consignment showing signs of having been broken into. The bags weighed 15 and 21 kg respectively.

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	1 only	Blasting	Shotfirer	Nine misfires – 5 initiation system failures, 2 slumping, 1 dislocation, 1 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A loaded hole was not identified as a misfire in its post-blast inspection nor during excavations. It was identified when it was drilled into, during the preparations for a subsequent blast when a shotfirer discovered old explosive product mixed with drill cuttings. Further examination revealed mangled nonel tubing and booster casing. No detonator was found.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock has struck lighting plants on site at a coal mine.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock from a blast travelled 288 metres, damaging a vehicle in a commercial carpark
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	While blasting trenches for a pipe-laying project, flyrock damaged a house, spooked horses, and scared a 13 year old child in the house

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None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	While clearing a pit for blasting, a blast controller went to drive through a section of haul road that had been cordoned off with witches hats delineating a length of det-cord across the haul road tying in two blasts. The blast controller was warned in time and the section of cord was cut to allow access without incident. The blast controller then went to another section and drove across a section of bell wire tying two IKON shots together.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A Jumbo drilled through a suspected blasthole containing prilled explosives.

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Explosives Inspectorate

For : September 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for the month
Theft of explosives	Blasting	1 box	Suspected theft of one box of Magnum 365 from an export container that arrived in New Zealand

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Six misfires – 2 column dislocations, 1 initiation system failure, 1 slumping, 1 procedure error, 1 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Manufacture - vehicle	An operator alighted from a Mobile Processing Unit and left the area in another vehicle. The MPU rolled approx 6 metres before another operator climbed in to the vehicle and applied the park brake.
None	Yes	Blasting	Store	The stock management system at a Government Explosives Reserve went down for the day.

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Explosives Inspectorate

For : October 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Blasting	3 kg	Whilst transloading bulka bags of SSAN, the stitching on the base of a bag came apart and the liner distended. About 3 kg of the product was spilled.
Theft of explosives			None reported for the month
Other	Blasting	Government Explosives Magazine	A Government Explosives Reserve was closed for the duration of a lightning storm. During the storm, lightning struck a magazine and the office, causing the security system to shut down.

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	23 misfires, two considered High Potential Incidents – 5 initiation system failures, 4 procedure errors, 4 column dislocations, 3 slumping, 7 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	There was a flyrock incident at a limestone quarry
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An excavator digging on a bench dug within 1 metre of a loaded shot.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A 400 gram booster and a detonator were discovered in shot rock material while being transferred at a quarry
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	There was a “near miss” traffic incident at the entrance to a Government Explosives Reserve, involving two B-double transport vehicles and a car.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A wheel on a dewatering truck has contacted a non-electric downline and severed the lead.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A mobile manufacturing unit ran over and cut a detonator downline which had been attached to a stake beside blast hole.

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Explosives Inspectorate

For : November 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for the month
Theft of explosives			None reported for the month

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Thirteen misfires, one a High Potential Incident when a sympathetic detonation caused a blast to shut down. – 3 column dislocations, 3 slumping, 3 initiation system failures, 1 loading method, 3 unknown.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	During a rain event a flow of water has washed a downline into a loaded blast hole. The hole was reprimed and stemmed, surveyed and treated as a misfire.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock struck a crib hut and a heavy vehicle near the hut. Equipment was outside the 200-metre designated equipment zone.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A service truck drove onto a loaded shot.
None	Yes	Blasting	Manufacture	A small fire started in an Ammonium Nitrate bulk store under a conveyer belt, which was rubbing against a steel frame. Friction started a very small fire in residue of AN and rubber. It was quickly extinguished by a front end loader operator who noticed the fire

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Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
Personal injury	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A mucker entering a stope area after firing was exposed to firing fumes. He was taken to hospital for observation overnight and release the next day
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	The delineation of a shot was moved close to a loaded hole during the dayshift for the purposes of redrilling a hole, within 4 metres of another loaded hole. The drill broke down prior to the redrill being completed and the delineation was left close to the loaded hole on the night shift. During the night shift, a driller redrilled to hole without supervision from a trained and appointed shotfirer.

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Explosives Inspectorate

For : December 2007

Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Blasting	300kg	A prime mover and three trailers left the highway and rolled over.
Theft of explosives			None reported for the month
Other	Blasting	7 kg	Explosives products were inadvertently sent to a suburban rubbish dump. The licence holder responsible was prosecuted and fined

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Nine misfires, one a High Potential Incident – 3 column dislocations, 2 initiation system failures, 1 loading method, 1 procedure error, 2 unknown
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Transport	A train hauling an ISO containing 22 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion was derailed 300 metres from a suburban railway station
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Transport	A Magazine Keeper was loading a pallet containing 800kg of Caps into a tailgate-loader body truck. The operator lost control of the pallet when the pallet jack rolled forward, breaking a large section of the pallet thus projecting the product forward off the lifter and onto the ground.
Property damage	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock was thrown 44 metres outside the property boundary of a suburban roadworks development site, damaging cars in a nearby carpark.
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	A plug of Powergel was found in a light vehicle being serviced in a workshop

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