



# Significant explosives accidents and incidents

Explosives Inspectorate

For : January 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for the month
Theft of explosives	Fireworks	70 cartons	A magazine was broken into and approximately seventy cartons of large calibre aerial shells were missing. Repairs and modifications to container vents and doors commenced, including additional security of locks, such as the lock cover connected to each side of the container (not just the door), and seam welding of the second door.
Other			None reported for the month

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	69 misfires reported for the month, one a High Potential Incident - 5 blasting method, 4 initiation system failures, 1 slumping, 59 unknown
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	An operator was preparing to charge some stripping holes on the side of a development heading to square the off the face. When setting up the job with detonators and product for charging, around 3 tonnes of broken rock material fell off the face onto the floor. The operator was not struck, however the detonators and perimeter charges were covered by some of the fallen rock material.

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None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A bench failure occurred after a recent rain event, causing a partially loaded shot to drop approximately 5 metres. About 57 holes were already loaded when the ground slumped.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Dozer tracks were found in a barricaded sleeping misfire site.

Chief Inspector of Explosives

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Safety and Health

Explosives Inspectorate

For : February 2010

## Security

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

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	65 misfires reported for the month, two of which were high potential incidents – one where a detonator was dropped down a hole and another when product and cord was found in a high wall during excavation. 11 initiation system failure, 2 slumping, 2 blasting method, 2 loading method, 1 procedure error, 47 unknown.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An operator was preparing to charge some stripping holes on a development header to square off the face when about 3 tonnes of broken rock material fell off the face onto the floor. Detonators and perimeter charges were covered by rock, but no personnel were injured.

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Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A partially loaded shot bench suffered a ground failure
Personal injury	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A charge car began rolling down a decline and the driver became struck underneath while alighting from the cabin. He suffered bruising to his ribs and shoulder.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A blast exclusion zone around a misfire was breached by a track dozer pushing an access road through a barricaded area. Signage and barricade tape was in place to demarcate the exclusion zone.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A Blast Exclusion Zone was breached during the firing of shot
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A production blast generated a significant post blast fume which travelled in an unexpected direction towards the outskirts of a nearby township. A safety team was deployed to assess the travel of the cloud and to contact any residents that may be in its path.
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	A delivery of 8 tonnes of AMEX in 500 kg bulk bags was delivered to a Government Explosives Reserve, where excessive diesel was noticed on the floor of the truck. All pallets were affected.

Chief Inspector of Explosives

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents

Explosives Inspectorate

For : **March 2010**

## Security

Incident	Explosives Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for the month
Theft of explosives			None reported for the month
Other			Ammonium nitrate emulsion outlets and hose ends were left unlocked or not secured with security seals at the end of shift while a vehicle was parked in the reload area at a surface coal mine
			A quantity of ammonium nitrate emulsion was discovered in the bottom of a waste bin at the depot of a transport firm.
			During a tour of a magazine, a box of boosters was found to be not sealed in a magazine. This is a breach of the company security policy and poor safety practice.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Sixty-eight misfires reported for the month - 3 blasting method, 2 slumping, 2 procedure error, 1 column dislocation, 1 loading method error, 59 unknown. Five misfires were considered to be High Potential Incidents :
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A production drill rig operator was hosing drill cuttings down a reamer hole when he noticed a piece of detonating cord protruding from the floor. The operator continued to hose down the area and exposed explosive product. Evidence from the initial investigation indicates that this lifter hole misfired roughly 7 years ago, when the site was developed.

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Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	The operator of an electric shovel observed ammonium nitrate exposed on the floor of a pre-strip blast. While undertaking a risk assessment the investigator found a live downline in the hole. After flushing ammonium nitrate from the hole a booster and det were retrieved, still in good condition and with no visible signs of defects. It is suspected that the down line had been cut off in the clay material on the surface at the time of firing.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A shot was designed with a 10m Heavy ANFO toe and 6m of stemming. Due to wet conditions the toe charge was raised in areas to 14m with ANFO as loading continued. No loading took place on the next day due to rain and wet surface conditions, however some slumping was noticed. On further investigation the shot crew found that 33 of the 15m x 900ms downlines had pulled from the end of the det and booster due to the slumping. The bottom leads were all intact and fired successfully.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Approximately half a meter of heavy ANFO along with a booster and downline detonator was discovered during excavation.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A digger operator found a lead and booster while digging an intrusion shot at a pit. No misfires had been seen as the area had been well broken up.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A post-blast fume drifted outside the boundary of the mine lease.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A shot was fired and a NOx cloud was generated. The cloud travelled off site over production personnel and crossed the nearby highway
None	Yes	Blasting	Manufacture - vehicle	A driver entered a mixing site to fill an MPU with emulsion. When the MPU reached full capacity the operator climbed down from tank, and noticed smoke coming from the side of the generator powering the pump.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A samba LC6 long hole drill was collaring a hole. After the operator blew off the floor with air there was no misfire visible. When collaring was complete the boom was retracted to allow enough room to insert the collar pipe. The operator then noticed signal tube and powergel in the hole.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A post-blast fume was generated, rated as a level 5 out of a possible 5. It did not cross the exclusion zone.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Fumes from an overburden blast passed through the crib hut area where three employees reported smelling the associated odours. The crib hut area was some 1.6km from the blast. The employees were sent to hospital for observation and were monitored for various lengths of time. All returned to work the following day with no complications or ill-effects.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An exclusion zone was breached when remedial firing took place while diamond drillers were within the exclusion zone.
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	Smoke was seen coming from wiring in proximity to an engine on a self-powered ammonium nitrate tipping trailer. The trailer was moved away from the reload area and disconnected from the prime mover. No fire occurred. The supervisor was not informed until some time later. Evacuation procedures were not initiated.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	The lead in line to initiate a shot was in the process of being rolled out. A light vehicle that had been discovered during the blast clearance sweep was leaving the pit when it encountered (but did not cross) the lead in line.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	While stemming a hole, a rock in the stemming cut the downline

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents

Explosives Inspectorate

For : April 2010

## Security

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

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Eighty-four misfires reported during the month : 23 initiation system failures, 7 procedure errors, 4 loading method errors, 2 blasting methods, 1 slumping and 47 unknown. Were considered High Potential Incidents :
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An excavator operator exposed ANFO product. Further digging found one live downline with detonator and one PPP booster.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A jumbo operator was drilling a hole when he heard a popping sound. He suspects that he may have intersected a misfire whilst drilling on a new heading. There was no ejection of rock from the face and it is currently believed that a misfired detonator may have been impacted upon.

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None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A stemming loader reversed over two 400g boosters.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An overburden blast released a large plume of nitrous oxide. The colour of the plume was rated as a 5, the highest on the reporting scale.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	At end of dayshift firing, the site was firing an electronic stope shot and a development round. The mine was evacuated and the firing procedure for the electronic stope shot commenced. In the test sequence for the electronic detonators a charge is delivered to the electronic detonators so that they can communicate with the "blasting machine". This ensures all logged detonators are hooked onto the control circuit. A 30 volt charge is supplied to the firing line for this purpose. A mistake was made in that an electric detonator was used to initiate the development round. The 30 volt test charge was enough to initiate the electric detonator, resulting in the development face firing.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A fume event occurred on a ramp O/B shot where the fume exceeded the blast exclusion zone. The wind direction was accounted for in the blast and the fume carried into an area where there were no personnel or would effect in any way outside the mine perimeter. The shot was loaded over several days in an area where the ground was very soft and heavy with moisture. The holes were dewatered and a 60/40 heavy ANFO was used with the exception of several holes which were slurried. The last day of loading was interrupted for a day with some heavy rain. The shot was fired the next day with the fume extending from this shot.

## Chief Inspector of Explosives

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents

Explosives Inspectorate

For : May 2010

## Security

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

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	125 misfires reported for the month : 8 initiation system failures, 7 procedure errors, 1 loading method, 109 unknown. Three were considered to be High Potential incidents :
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A 400g PPP booster and a 45m 600ms downhole detonator were discovered during excavation.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A misfired booster and detonator were discovered during excavation. Slits in the nonel tubing at the bend before the detonator enters the booster indicate that the signal tune may have failed.

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Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An operator drilled a lifter hole about half a metre from a misfired knee hole which contained the remains of a non-elect det and a 200g power pack
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	A charge car had an uncontrolled movement close to a development face. The truck slowly moved (with the driver in the cabin) a truck-length and stopped when it touched the wall. The charge car sustained no damage. This vehicle had been involved in a similar incident recently. The driver did not know how much explosives the vehicle carried at the time of the incident.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A firing board was closed by a firing shift boss, who was drawn to another task. He had handed over authority to another shift boss, who electronically initiated the PED firing sequence while two people were tagged and still underground. The firing sequence was subsequently cancelled prior to arming and initiation, when the error was identified by the original supervisor
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A loaded bowl truck (MPU) suffered a flat battery on the shot bench at an open cut mine whilst preparing to load at a pad. The truck had a full load of SSAN, process chemicals and fuel. The SSAN and chemicals had not been mixed. The batteries were replaced, however information to hand suggests that these batteries were taller than the originals. When the battery box cover was replaced the batteries shorted out, causing a fire. This was extinguished with the MPU's portable fire extinguisher. A 1 km exclusion zone was put in place until the truck was cleared.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A shot was fired which generated a significant amount of fume. The dragline crew remained within the cabin of their machine as they were outside the exclusion zone. Oxides of nitrogen drifted over the dragline. The air conditioner was shut off as the cloud passed over. Both employees reported headaches and were taken to town for medical assessment.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Store	<p>A small grass fire occurred at a Government Explosives Reserve. The fire started when employees of a site tenant were burning off cardboard boxes in an incinerator. The fire was spotted by an employee of another site tenant, who contacted the fire brigade. The fire was put out using shovels, and the fire brigade ran water over it to prevent re-ignition. The site tenant's employees stated that they waited at the incinerator until all flames had died off, however it was a windy day.</p> <p>To prevent this from happening again, site tenants will not burn any more materials in the incinerator. All wastes including Accessories boxes will be painted over and placed in the tenant's bin.</p>
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	<p>After a blast had fired, a maintenance fitter approached the blast area coming to within 600m of the shot. The fitter saw dust and retreated. Initial investigation on site has revealed that a blast guard may not have been provided for a new access road. There was no exposure to personnel.</p>

Chief Inspector of Explosives

# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | June 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Black Powder	200g	Lost during an explosives demonstration in a public park.
Theft of explosives	Railway track signals	12	Railway track signals were stolen along with other items from a railway engine.
Other	Nil	Nil	An explosives truck entered an explosive reserve by following closely behind another vehicle without using the authorised security swipe card.
	Detonators	6 boxes	Six boxes of detonators were issued in error. The discrepancy was identified by stocktake and the explosives correctly accounted for.
	Blasting explosives	N/A	A compound gate to an explosives storage area was left unlocked overnight.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
Nil	Yes	Blasting explosives	Mining	Hot repair work was conducted on a charge car that had ANFO (Class 1 Explosive) in the kettle.
Vehicle damage	Yes	Blasting explosives	Mining	A mobile manufacturing unit (explosives) reversed into a bobcat at a mine site.
Nil	Yes	Blasting explosives	Mining	At night a bulldozer breached a sleeping shot within an exclusion zone.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
Fume event	Yes	Blasting explosives	Mining	Three fume events at open cut coal mines were reported. Fumes moved outside the exclusion zone but did not result in any exposures.
Nil	No	Fireworks	Fireworks	A multishot fireworks cake malfunctioned. No damage or injuries. The product has been withdrawn from use.
Nil	Yes	Blasting explosives	Mining	111 misfires occurred in open-cut and underground coal and metalliferous mines. Reported failures included eight explosives found during excavation, three column dislocations, three possible earth leakages, one slumped hole, one hole not tied in, three electronic detonators not responding, two control row shutdowns, one poor connection, and one faulty wire. The suspected cause of the other misfires was not provided.
Blasting complaint	No	Blasting explosives	Mining	There were two complaints regarding noise and vibration from blasting activities.
Fireworks complaints	No	Fireworks	Fireworks	There were two complaints regarding noise from fireworks displays.

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | July 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for month
Theft of explosives			None reported for month
Other	Nil	Nil	A postpak parcel was found that had wires and white powder. It was a hoax device. EORT advised.
	Blasting	2	Two stope blasting primers were found in a decline and returned to the explosives magazine.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A mobile manufacturing unit (MMU) drove through the Clem7 Tunnel (no placard loads of explosives). It was caused by a detour in place that confused the driver.
Damage to equipment	Yes	SSAN	Mining	A fire occurred on a tubeveyor on a mine site.
Damage to vehicle	Yes	Blasting	Mining	An MMU lost its rear wheel assembly.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A fume event occurred at an open cut coal mine. There were no exposures.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A person was not accounted for at the time of firing a blast.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Nil	Mining	An employee claimed he was sacked for refusing to follow unsafe practices.
Damage to vehicle	Yes	SSAN	Transport	A truck had smoke coming from its rear wheels due to the brakes being left locked on after leaving the depot.

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | August 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Thermite igniters	20	A carton of thermite igniters was lost by a road transport operator.
Theft of explosives			None reported for month
Other	Detonator	1	A detonator was found hanging unsecured on a side wall at a mine site.
	Detonators	100	100 detonators could not be accounted for. They were subsequently located.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
Injury	Yes	Fireworks	Fireworks	A fireworks cake malfunctioned resulting in minor injuries to a child.
Injury	Yes	Home made explosive	None	A 15 year old male suffered serious facial and hand injuries from a home made device using sparkler composition.
None	No	Blasting	Mining	There were three complaints about vibrations from blasting.
Fume event	Yes	Blasting	Mining	There were four fume events at open cut coal mines. One of the events lasted over two hours.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A vehicle drove over a firing cable connected to a shot.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Construction	Gravel in a bulka bag to contain a blast was ejected outside the exclusion zone.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A person was inside an exclusion blast zone when a shot was fired.
Injury	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A mine visitor was struck by a small fragment from the initiation of a lead in line bunch block.
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	A pallet of packaged explosives was damaged in transit. The packaging was torn and product spilt.
None	Yes	Ammonium nitrate	Transport	Ammonium nitrate leaked from a container while in transit by rail.
None	No	Blasting	Mining	A bobcat had an electrical harness fire whilst working on a loaded shot.
None	No	Blasting	Mining	67 misfires reported for the month: two slumped holes, one column dislocation, three products found when mucking out, and three product failures. Other causes not known.

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | September 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for month.
Theft of explosives			None reported for month.
Other	None	None	A vehicle was parked outside a Government Explosive Reserve with persons observing activities.
	Not known	Not known	Loud explosions in the Tallai area of the Gold Coast were reported.
	Blasting	Storage silo	A security seal/lock was not on an emulsion storage silo.
	None	None	Keys to an explosives storage area were lost.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
Damage to equipment	Yes	Blasting	Mining	Equipment was damaged by flyrock from a quarry blast.
None	No	Blasting	Mining	There were two blasting complaints in relation to quarry blasting.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	Two fume events occurred at open cut coal mines.
Damage to vehicle	Yes	Blasting	Construction	A vehicle was hit by flyrock from a construction blast.
None	No	Fireworks	Fireworks	Three complaints about firework displays.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Mining	76 misfires were reported: two product failures, two products found when mucking out, two slumped holes and three column dislocations. Other causes not known.

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | October 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for month.
Theft of explosives			None reported for month.
Other	Blasting	83	83 cartridges of explosives were found unfired, connected to a development face (also unfired) at the commencement of a shift. The product was not secured or accounted for.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Mining	99 misfires reported: Four product failures, two downlines broken, two slumped holes, two column dislocations, one incorrect tie in and five products found when mucking out. Other causes not known.
None	No	Fireworks	Fireworks	There were three complaints concerning fireworks for the month.
Fume event	No	Blasting	Mining	There were two fume events at open cut coal mines.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	An exclusion zone breach occurred at an open cut coal mine.
None	No	Blasting	Transport	While unloading bagged ANFO, a bag was torn and product was spilt.

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | November 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives	Blasting	1	A detonator was missing after a shot was loaded.
	Blasting	3	A booster and two detonators were missing after a shot was loaded.
Theft of explosives			None reported for month.
Other	Blasting	40 cases	A supplier issued 40 cases of an incorrect product that resulted in a discrepancy at the suppliers store and a mine site.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Fireworks	Fireworks	There were three fireworks complaints about excessive noise.
None	No	Blasting	Mining	A resident complained about excessive vibration from a quarry blast.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	An underground loader snapped some downlines on a shot.
Injury	Yes	Home made explosive	None	Two teenagers were injured while manufacturing a pipe bomb.
Fume event	Yes	Blasting	Mining	Personnel were affected by fumes from a blast at a coal mine. The exposure was minor. Another coal mine had a fume event with no exposures.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Mining	87 misfires were reported: Four products found when mucking out, three slumped holes, one column dislocation, one product failure and four incorrectly tied in. Other causes not known.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	An exclusion zone breach occurred at an open cut coal mine.
None	No	Blasting	Transport	While unloading bagged ANFO, a bag was torn and product was spilt.

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# Significant explosives accidents and incidents



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate | December 2010

## Security

Incident	Explosive Type	Quantity	Description
Loss of explosives			None reported for month.
Theft of explosives	Small arms ammunition	Significant	A significant quantity of small arms ammunition and weapons were stolen from a rifle range. The range manager was forced to provide access.
Other	Blasting accessories	One roll	A roll of non electric lead in line was left unsecured in a mine vehicle for seven days.
	Blasting	Nil	A person working for an explosive licence holder was charged with serious offences by police. He had not been subjected to security checks by his employer to determine if unsupervised access was appropriate.

## Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Transport	Two pallet loads of boosters had collapsed during transport. Poor quality pallet bases, configuration and inadequate security of load were involved.
Fume event	Yes	Blasting	Mining	Three fume events occurred at open cut coal mines.

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	An exclusion zone breach occurred at a coal mine.
None	No	Fireworks	Fireworks	Three complaints were made concerning excessive noise from fireworks.
None	Yes	Blasting	Mining	A vehicle moving on a loaded shot snagged a firing downline which snapped. The downline did not fire.
None	No	Blasting	Mining	49 misfires: Four product failures and two incorrect tie ins. Other causes were not known.

Authorised by **Geoff Downs** | Chief Inspector of Explosives

Place the alert on noticeboards and ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy.

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