

# Serious accidents and high potential incidents Mineral mines and quarries

## Compilation of reports for March 2017

### Gravity

#### Fall of equipment/material (3)

- A 4m length of 60 cm water pipe dislodged and fell approximately 2m striking a boilermaker on his foot.
- During maintenance on a skip, a 50 kg piece of concrete was found on the top of the skip. A shaft inspection was completed to determine from where the concrete fell.
- While operating, the frame of a gantry crane caught a gate handle causing the gate to vibrate. The vibration cause a piece of steel to fall to the ground.

#### Fall of ground (2)

- A 10 t rock fall occurred in the brow of a drawpoint. Four rock bolts also fell during the failure.
- A 0.8 magnitude seismic event caused a 5-8 t rock fall from a side wall in an accessible area of an underground mine.

#### Fall of structure (1)

- A 5 kg pipe bracket fell 5 m from a pipe rack onto a walkway.

### Vehicle

#### Collision with another vehicle (1)

- A loaded Cat 771D truck lost steering and ran into a safety berm. The incident was caused by the failure of a steering hose.

#### Collision with a natural or built structure (1)

- An unattended light vehicle rolled forward 6 m and struck a structural column of a processing plant.

### Other (3)

- While a loaded bucket on a loader was being weighed, the loader tipped forward causing the operator to strike his head on the instrument panel.
- While manoeuvring a barge from its mooring to a river terminal, a small work boat came into contact with the barge. The barge then capsized and the vessel operator fell into the water.
- While travelling on a haul road, the bucket of a Cat 980K loader dug into the road, causing the operator to be thrown forward and receive lacerations to their skull. The operator was not wearing a seat belt.

### Electrical

#### Electric shock (2)

- A worker received an eclectic shock while touching an emergency stop button.
- A worker received a minor electric shock when they touched the metal frame of a conveyor..

### Biological

#### Other (1)

- A contractor worker who was performing hosing duties identified change in water quality and notified his Supervisor. An investigation found that a process water line had been connected to a fresh water line.

## Mechanical

### Struck by projectile (1)

- While concave sections were being removed from a gyrating crusher using a rock breaker with a slipper attachment, a slither of steel broke away, travelling 10 m and striking a worker on the arm.

### Other (2)

- The front right hand wheel on a grader broke off due to a failure of the hub. The wheel travelled 40-60 m crossing a road before it came to rest.
- The driver of a Normet agitator truck was thrown from the seat struck their head on the roof of the cabin and lost consciousness when the truck drove over a rock on the road. The operator was wearing a seatbelt but it was found to have failed at the mount.

## Thermal

### Fire (5)

- Following hot work in the head frame of a hoisting shaft, smoke was observed to be coming from the shaft. The mine was evacuated and the shaft deluged from the surface.
- An operator of a Cat water truck noticed smoke in the cabin. The operator parked the vehicle and extinguished a fire on a hydraulic line in the engine bay.
- A fire occurred around the acetylene pressure gauge on an oxy acetylene set. There was a leak at the gauge and sparks from a grinder caused the ignition of the acetylene.
- Two solenoids in the fuel delivery circuit of a service truck overheated and caught fire.
- A fire occurred in the engine bay of a truck when a hydraulic hose failed and sprayed oil onto hot components. The fire self-extinguished when the engine was shut down.

## Molten metal/material (1)

- During the addition of anode furnace final skim to a converter, an adverse reaction occurred within the converter, which resulted in a foam-over event. Molten material was ejected into the surrounding areas.

## Heat strain/stress/stroke (3)

- A worker who was spray painting conveyor support legs began to feel unwell. He was taken to hospital with suspected heat stress.
- A shotcrete operator reported feeling unwell at the end of his shift. He was admitted to hospital with heat stress symptoms.
- A driller was admitted to hospital as in-patient after he had dehydration symptoms.

## Explosives

### Misfire (1)

- During loading out of material following a blast, a quantity of misfired explosives was exposed by the loader operator.

### Security (1)

- During routine operations, a mine identified that it could not account for 2 sticks of 32 x 200 powergel.

### Other (1)

- A dump truck was operating on an upper bench at a quarry when a shot was fired on a lower bench. The truck may have been within the blast exclusion zone.

## Chemical

### Acids (1)

- A contractor was knocked over and sprayed in the face and eyes with battery acid when a battery pack he was using to jump start a water truck exploded. He was initially treated onsite and then transported to hospital for further treatment.

### Exposure to other chemicals (3)

- A worker pierced a bulk container containing a thionocarbamate and isopropanol mixture with a forklift tyne. The worker suffered respiratory issues later that day and the following day while cleaning up the spill with a spill kit.

A charge crew operator was sprayed in the eyes and face with SANFOLD when another operator flushed the SANFOLD hose by mistake while charging a hole. The operators' eyes were immediately flushed.

- A worker was commissioning a lime silo when the rubber bellows between the silo and screw conveyor blew out. The worker was covered in hydrated lime dust. He showered immediately and had no burns but complained of a throat irritation.

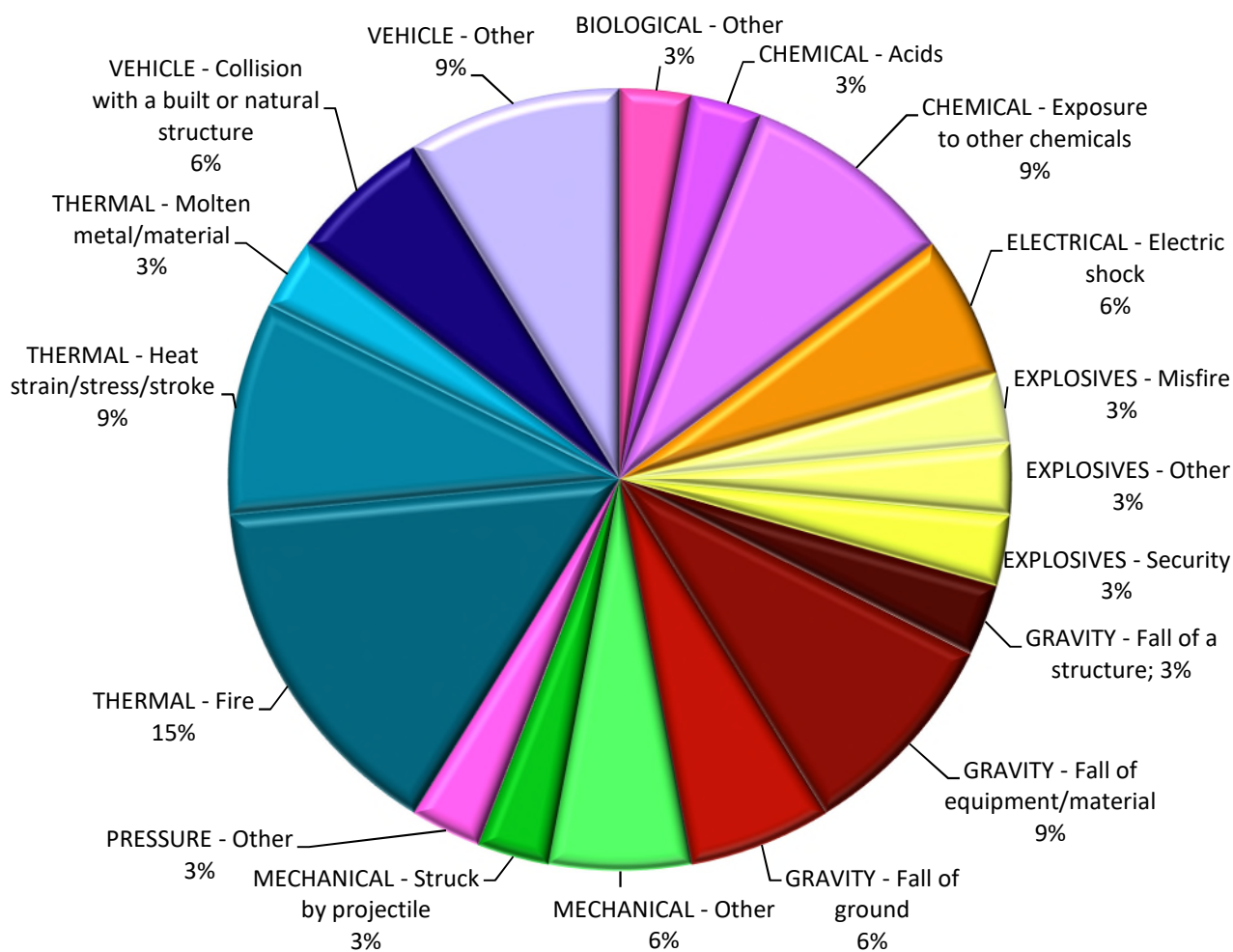


Chart 1 – March 2017 (34 Incidents)

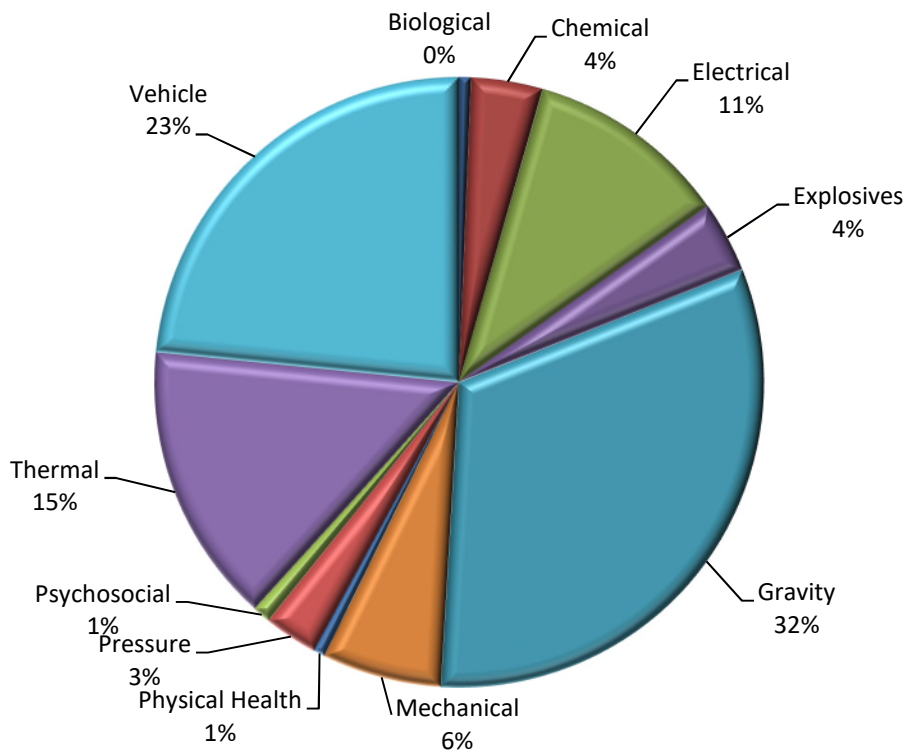


Chart 2 – 12 month rolling average to end March 2017 by Hazard Category (316 Incidents)

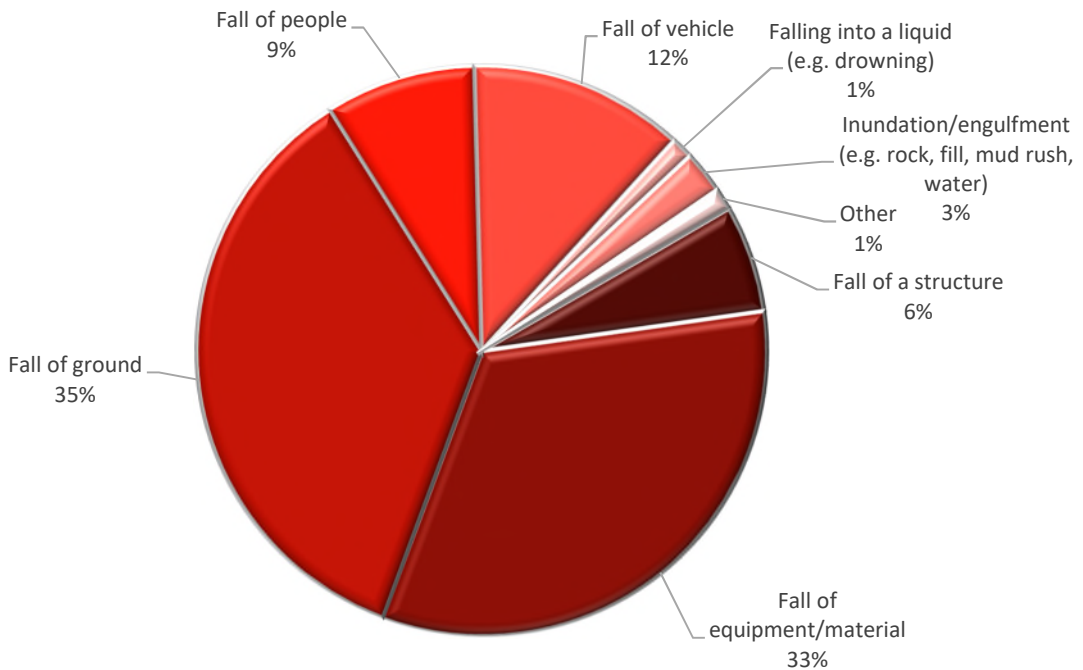


Chart 3 - July to March 2017 Breakdown of Gravity Hazard Category (82 Incidents)

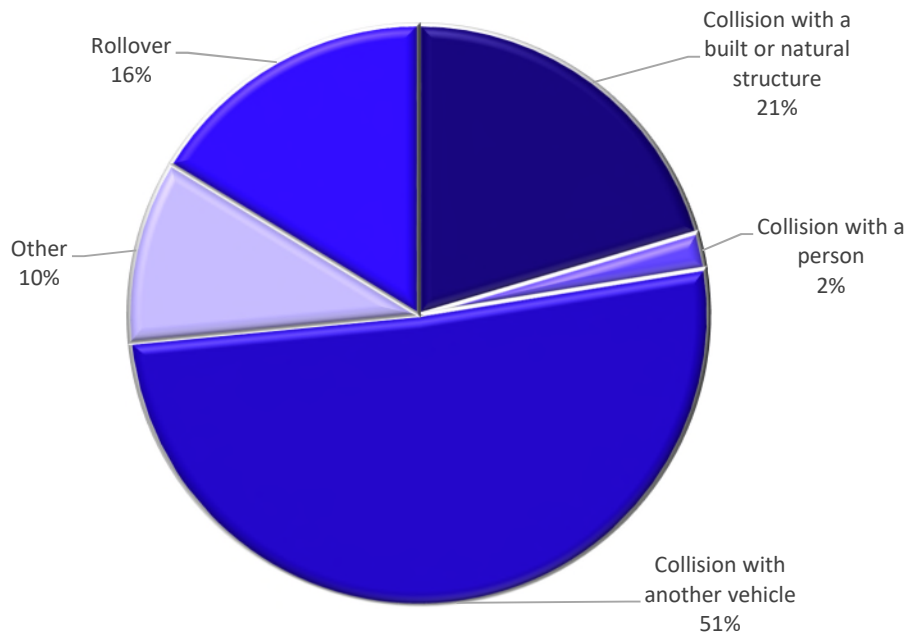


Chart 4 - July to March 2017 Breakdown of Vehicle Hazard Category (49 Incidents)

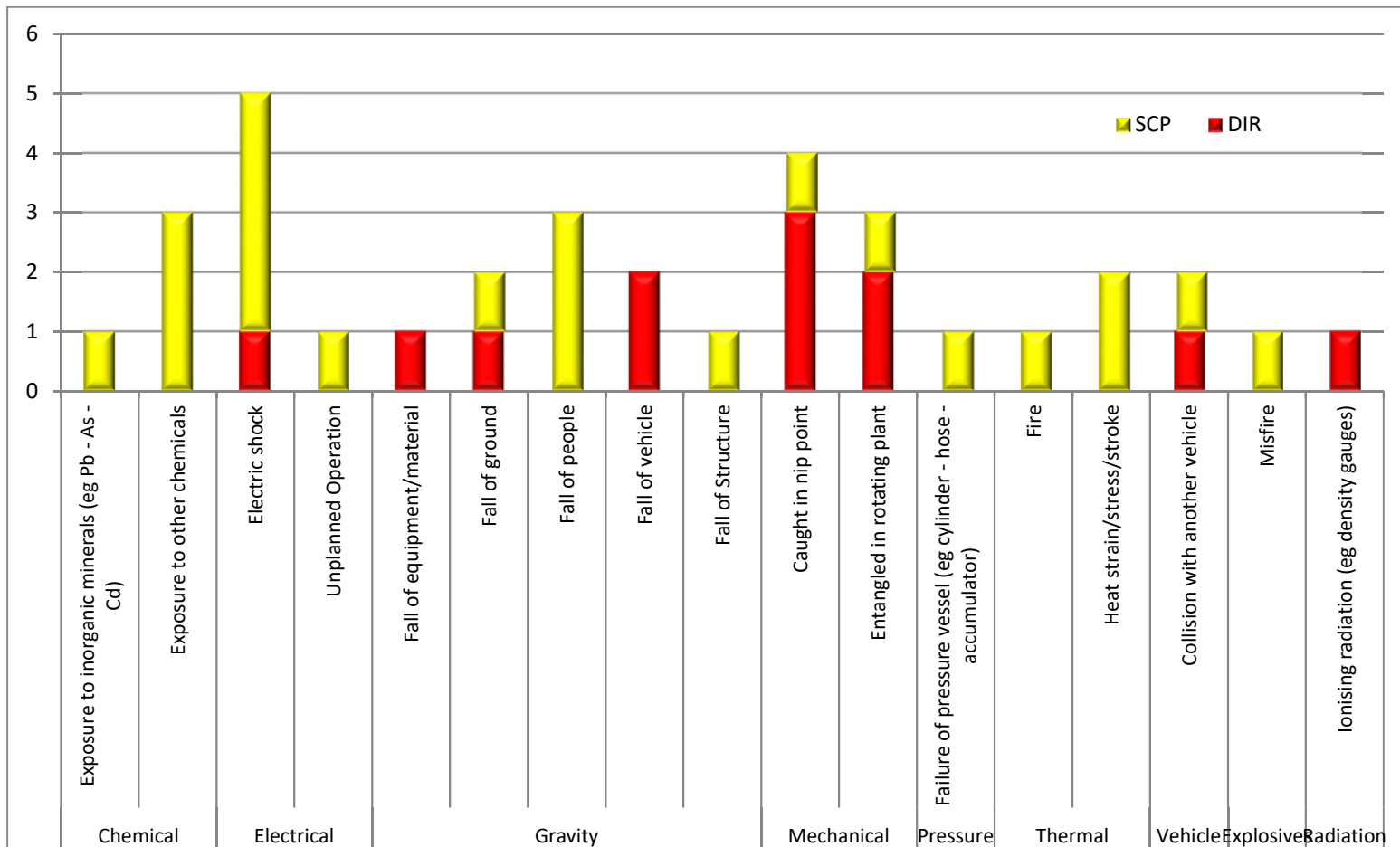


Chart 5 - March 2017 Compliance Matters Issued by Hazard Category (34 Issued)

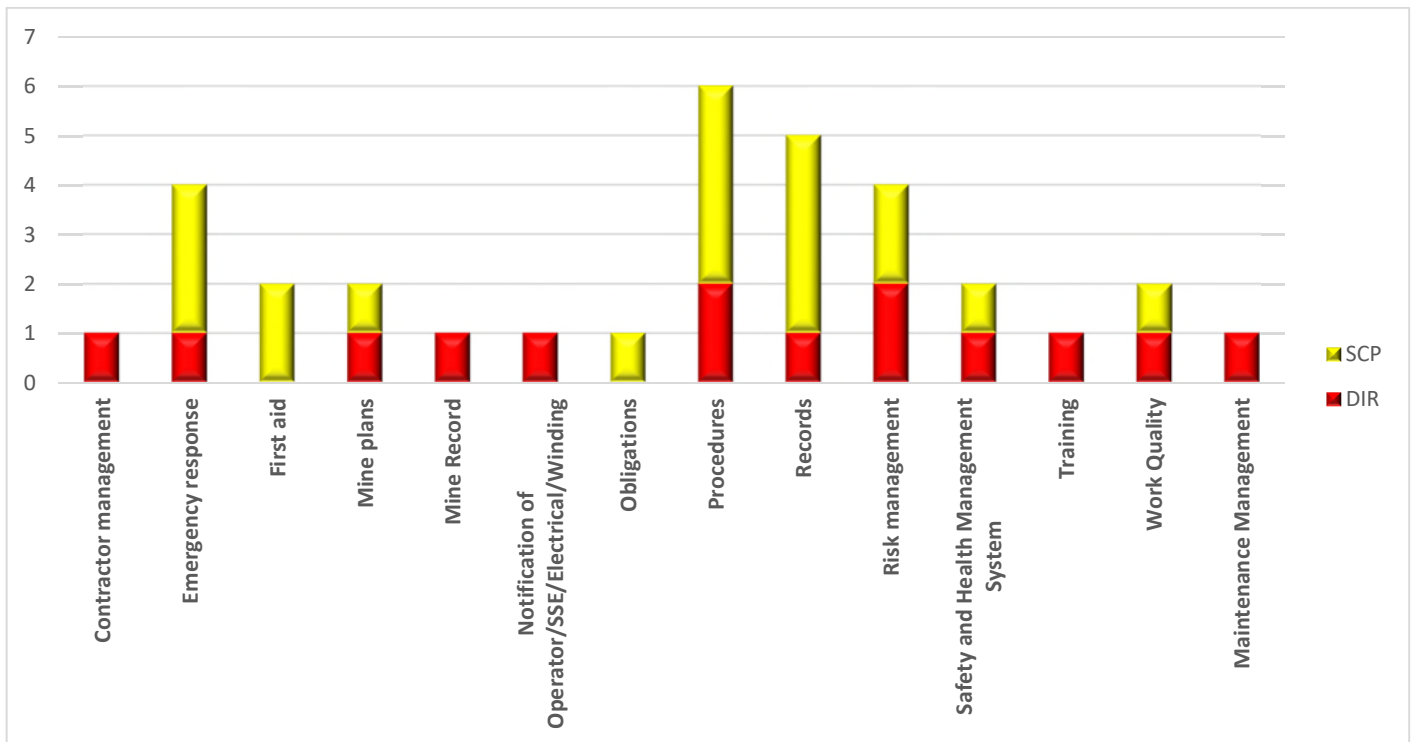


Chart 6 - March 2017 Compliance Matters Issued by Non Hazard Category (24 Issued)

Past Mineral Mines and Quarry summary reports can be sourced at <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/mining/safety-health/mining-safety-health/accidents-incidents/serious-and-high-potential>