



QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVES INSPECTORATE
SUMMARY OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS
January 2006

- Approximately 20 misfires were reported from Central Queensland coal mines during the month.
- A man received burns and hearing problems when a fellow employee threw a firecracker down the man's shirt.
- An employee was lifting a box of boosters into the back of a light vehicle when he felt a sharp pain in his back. He was taken to the Doctor and has been placed onto restricted duties for the remaining shifts of his roster cycle.
- A blast was initiated at a major north Queensland mine prior to complete evacuation of personnel. The supervisor was notified and all personnel later safely accounted for.



QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
SUMMARY OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND HIGH POTENTIAL INCIDENTS
February 2006

- A further 22 misfires were reported during the month. Although predominantly from the Central Queensland coal mines, several were also recorded from southeast Queensland quarries. Of particular concern to the Inspectorate is the fact that several were identified only when explosive products were discovered in the dig pile.
- There were five (5) breaches of blast site exclusion zones reported during the month.
- A major underground metalliferous mine reported an initiation of explosives when a jumbo was boring a development face. An explosion occurred on the hole being drilled by the left hand boom. No injuries were sustained, but one rock of approximately 20kg was thrown 21m from the face past the rig. Another rock weighing approximately 100kgs landed in front of the rig 7m from the face. The glass on the open side door of the rig was shattered by flying rock.
- At a north Queensland open cut mine, a rockfall from the highwall landed on a loaded shot. No accidental initiation occurred. The rockfall was subsequently cleared and the shot was fired.
- A 'B-double' truck stopped at the security gate of a major central Queensland coal mine and it was noticed that there was a small leak of Ammonium nitrate prill coming from the rear container.
- While loading a shot, a truck caught the 1.2m wooden peg securing the downlines. One of the downlines snapped, but did not fire. The shot was finished, tied in and fired. No misfires were observed.
- A single electric detonator was found in an empty powergel box at a major underground mine.
- Half a booster with a detonator inside was found in a pre-strip dump. While it was the company's policy to leave explosives handling to shotfirers, the assembly was picked up and passed through several hands until it reached the shotfirer. The detonator was bent and had been removed.



QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
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March 2006

- Explosives inspectors were called to a government scientific laboratory to render safe an area containing a suspect explosive compound recovered from a clandestine drug laboratory.
- A mine surveyor breached a blast exclusion zone and drove onto a shot where the blast crew were tying in the holes.
- Major surface explosives magazines at a north Queensland mine were flooded following heavy rainfall in the area. Approximately 18 tonnes of ANFO was dissolved by flood water.
- Two spills (up to a tonne of product) of emulsion and ammonium nitrate were reported during the month.
- Two primers were found by a dozer operator at a central Queensland coal mine
- A loader caught fire on shot at a coal mine.
- A primer and detonator were found by a dozer operator on a spoil dump at a major coal mine.



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April 2006

- 5x25kg bags (125kg) of SSAN was unaccounted for by a small retailer. Although there was a possibility of theft, investigation revealed that the loss was almost certainly an accounting error.
- An excavator dug through an exclusion zone into a loaded blast zone and cut through two non electric detonator down lines.
- Fire occurred in the engine compartment of a charge car at a major underground mine in north-west Queensland. The charge car did contain explosives at the time of the fire. The fire was extinguished by unit's fire suppression system.
- Emulsion gasser solution was pumped into gasser companion solution storage and companion solution was pumped into gasser storage by delivery driver at a central Queensland mine site. Both tanks were decanted prior to chemical reaction (expected to be a minor reaction). Both tanks are vented and it was most likely that the ventilation available would have allowed any reaction to occur without incident. However, a decision was made by the explosives company to decant solution in order to err on the side of caution. Solution tank inlets are designed to prevent this type of incident from occurring, however it appears that the delivery driver may have removed fittings to override features.
- After a blast at a major central Queensland coal mine, two contractor maintenance personnel were noticed leaving an 'in pit bench' approximately 400 metres from the blast site. The dragline they were working on was on shutdown maintenance at the time. The workers had been missed in the pre-blast clearance and were in the dragline house at the time the blast was initiated.
- A near miss traffic accident was reported involving a loaded truck leaving from the front gate of the Bajool Government Explosives Reserve.



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May 2006

- A Claymore anti-personnel mine was found at a Mackay rubbish dump. The area was evacuated and the army was called in to clear the item which was later found to be a training item.
- The trailers of a truck became uncoupled from the prime-mover whilst driving up a range in central Queensland. No product was spilled.
- A person was apprehended with explosives devices thought to be intended for use in terrorist activities. The person had obtained the explosives by falsifying documentation.
- A fire occurred on a charge car in an underground mine.
- Ground slippage during a blast at a north Queensland quarry caused 12 holes of a blast to misfire. The blast site was isolated and private security guards posted until the explosives company prepared a risk assessment and a procedure to recover the live detonators and primers. The render safe procedure took 11 days to complete.
- A B-triple lost its two rear trailers 20km north of Dingo. Approximately 1 tonne of AN was spilled.
- A charge vehicle at a central Queensland underground mine had a small fire as a result of the compressor oil filter blowing off. The mine was evacuated and re-entry was effected approximately 12 hours later without incident. No explosives were burnt, but two empty boxes burnt and the ANFO charge hose was scorched.



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June 2006

- A major misfire involving over 50 holes was reported from a north-west Queensland mine. It is thought to have been caused by the detonator down-lines being cut off by horizontal movement within several weak bedding layers.
- An operator digging out the shot described above, recovered a booster from the misfired portion of a shot. An operator handled and transported the explosive in contravention of site procedures. Procedures require identified misfired explosives to be managed by the blasting contractor.
- An MMU operator arrived onto a bench and got out of his truck to get instructions about the shot he was to load. The operator stated he took the truck out of gear and applied the park brake before alighting from the truck. While they were talking the truck began to roll backwards. The operator ran back and jumped into the truck and applied the foot brake. The MMU had moved approximately 10 to 15 metres.
- A forklift partly ran over a case of detonators. The forklift was transporting a shrink-wrapped pallet of detonators on which a further two cases were placed on top. It appears that the forklift ran over a rock causing one of the loose cases to fall and become jammed between the bottom of the pallet and the ground. Some of the detonators were damaged.
- A charge car at a north Queensland underground mine collided with a fully loaded and primed face, causing damage to detonating cord, but fortunately no accidental initiation resulted.
- A semi-trailer carrying a 26T load of ammonium nitrate overturned on a central Queensland highway. Upon turning over, approximately 4T of ammonium nitrate was spilled. The driver appeared to have suffered minor injuries, possibly to the neck.
- A crew of construction workers used a charge basket to access the area they were working on. The men were seen to be grinding. It was later found that the Kettle on the charge basket contained approximately 100kg of ANFO.
- A B-triple truck loaded with over 50 tonnes of ammonium nitrate was involved in a single vehicle road accident. The last two (2) trailers of the truck rolled over. The product was being transported in shipping containers. Only about 1 tonne of product spilled from a hatch on one of the containers.
- A youth was apprehended in possession of a quantity of explosives. He had been experimenting with burning detonating cord and appears to have managed to initiate at least one length of cord.

QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
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July 2006

HIGH EXPLOSIVES

- A full cartridge of explosives was found in an old drill hole butt in an underground mine. The shotcreting crew had shotcreted over the explosive.
- While loading ANFO into a mobile manufacturing unit, the operator noticed smoke from the bottom bearing of an auger and the unit was stopped. Employees were evacuated to a safe location as a precaution. The auger shaft had dropped and started to rub against the bottom end plate causing a hot spot and the paint on the equipment to burn.

FIREWORKS

- Five cartons of fireworks were initiated in a fireworks preparation shed. Occupants at the time of the incident contacted emergency services and upon arrival, the fire brigade put out two small fires in the shed. There were no injuries and minimal damage to the shed.

QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
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August 2006

HIGH EXPLOSIVES

- An explosives vehicle was parked on a decline 15 metres from a magazine entrance when the vehicle ran uncontrolled down the decline and into the magazine door. There were no explosives on board the vehicle but the magazine door was damaged.
- Six 250g ring prime boosters were discovered when a trainee bogger driver noticed the explosives while dumping a load of dirt. Two more boosters were found upon sifting through the dirt.
- While scaling a face at an underground mine, a jumbo operator dislodged a rock, which was concealing a quantity of old explosives. The shift supervisor barricaded the area pending an investigation.
- An employee at an underground mine was instructed to prepare old explosives for disposal. The employee was found placing detonators into a cartridge of emulsion explosives whilst in the magazine.
- A mobile processing unit being used to load an overburden blast had completed loading a blast hole and was driven forward to the next hole to be loaded. As the vehicle moved away from the loaded hole, the auger caught the nonel down line resulting in the down line being pulled and then severed by a sharp edge on the auger chute. The vehicle had moved forward approximately 3m before the operator noticed the severed down line.
- Explosives were discovered in a camouflaged bunker in the Sunshine Coast area.

FIREWORKS

- Stage effect fireworks were stolen from the storage facility at a major south-east Queensland entertainment venue. The offender was identified from video surveillance and although not an employee of the venue, the person had knowledge of where the key for the magazine was kept.
- A multishot firework was found at a major Brisbane intersection. The road was closed until an Inspector of Explosives attended the scene and deemed the firework had already been fired.
- Police, at the request of the Explosives Inspectorate, intercepted a shotfirer after he was reported to be removing 'Explosives' signage from the vehicle he was driving. The vehicle involved was still carrying explosives at the time.

QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
SUMMARY OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND HIGH POTENTIAL INCIDENTS
September 2006

HIGH EXPLOSIVES

- While carrying out a post shotfiring inspection at a coal mine, an unexploded plug of explosive had not detonated. Upon further inspection of the plug, it was found the detonator had fired. The plug was disposed of on the surface.
- A pre shift inspection at a northwest Queensland underground mine revealed a poly pipe which contained undetonated packaged explosive. There was no detonator present. The poly pipe and explosives were taken underground for destruction.
- A charge up crew were in the process of charging an underground stope when flames were noticed coming from the engine bay of the Normet charge vehicle being operated at the time. The unit's fire suppression system was activated and the fire extinguished.
- Operators at an underground mine parked their charge car outside a crib room while they took a short drink break. When the operators returned a few minutes later, they found that the charge car had rolled approximately 10 metres down a decline and struck the decline wall. Some damage was sustained to the charge car basket. Charge car was carrying ANFO and initiating explosives at time of incident.
- One of the major explosives companies received a suspicious phone call regarding the purchase of explosives. The phone number of the caller appeared on caller ID and has been passed on to the police for further investigation.
- A 15 metre downline was found snapped at a major metalliferous open cut mine. It was identified that a pulling force had been applied caused the line to break.
- An operator picked up a grader and drove through a loaded shot despite the area being barricaded and signed.
- A dozer driver drove up onto a rill protecting a sleeping shot in a signed area. The blade of the dozer came down onto the downline of a loaded hole.
- A pyrite explosion occurred when firing a development heading.

QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
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October 2006

HIGH EXPLOSIVES

- Fishermen found five sticks of gelnite on the bank of a river. The fishermen took the explosives to a nearby bridge and notified police. The Gympie to Tin Can Bay Road was closed until inspectors secured the items.
- 24 sticks of 25mm x 200mm packaged explosive identified for destruction could not be found in the magazine of a major underground mine. It was later discovered the products had already been destroyed by a blast crew member, but not recorded.
- A truck carrying explosives had engine trouble and was detained at Emerald until a follow up vehicle could arrive to transfer the load. Police were notified and assisted with security during the process.
- A small amount of prill was found in an excavator digging area. The product was inspected but no leads were found.
- A Queensland coal mine reported to the Explosives Inspectorate that they could not account for one detonator. A search of two unopened boxes revealed they were both one short of the quantity stated to have been provided. (All boxes stated 13 units, but only contained 12).
- Explosives were reportedly found in a tunnel at the Barron River Powerstation. When inspected there were no explosives present. Wooden plugs had been jammed into old drill holes from which electrical wiring had been strung, giving the appearance of an old explosives charge.
- A mobile processing unit pumping explosives down holes in preparation for blasting noticed smoke emanating from the vehicle. Closer inspection revealed the explosives pump was overheating and product was starting to become contaminated with rubber from components of the pump.
- A north Queensland mine reported that during the loading of a bench hole, the collar of the hole collapsed and in the process falling rocks cut the signal tube down line.

FIREWORKS

- Gold Coast police received a call to remove a firework (fired aerial shell) from the beach at Broadbeach. The firework was from an organised firework display fired on the beach the previous night. It appears that the fireworks landed in the surf and washed back ashore.
- Two Sunshine Coast teenagers were injured when cutting up an aerial shell and it initiated. One boy required hospitalisation, the other received minor burns.

QUEENSLAND EXPLOSIVE INDUSTRIES
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November 2006

HIGH EXPLOSIVES

- A prime mover and a single trailer loaded with 22 bulka bags of ammonium nitrate rolled onto its left side 12 kilometres south of Rockhampton. The Driver was taken to Rockhampton Base Hospital with head injuries requiring stitches and was kept under observation for a further four hours. The spill of ammonium nitrate was contained to a small area of the road and road verge with only some of the bags damaged. The Bruce Highway was blocked and traffic diverted around the scene via a side track and the railway service road.
- A road train carting ammonium nitrate was directed to pull over to make way for an oncoming wide load. The prime mover was parked in a parking bay as instructed, but while passing it, the oncoming wide load came into contact with the rear trailer of the parked vehicle slicing it open the entire length of the container at the upper edge of the container. None of the product was spilled.
- Cairns Police searched a residence and found a small quantity of packaged explosives and an electric detonator. The product was collected by Explosives Inspectorate and is being held at an explosives reserve, pending investigations.
- Two holes loaded with explosives prematurely detonated at a central Queensland coal mine. The area was isolated and after consideration of several possible causes and solutions. The most likely cause for the premature detonation was deemed to be hot ground. A detailed risk assessment was conducted by mine personnel and external consultants and the remaining holes were ultimately tied in and fired successfully.
- A member of the public reported some detonators at a turnoff west of Mt Isa. Police responded to the incident fearing it may have been an Improvised Explosives Device. On arrival at the scene the police confirmed it was a quantity of commercial detonators which were removed to Mt Isa for disposal.
- Flyrock was generated at an inner Brisbane construction site. Flyrock was released up to 53 metres from the site spraying small rocks out to that distance. Fortunately there was no damage or casualties reported. Blast mats which had routinely been used at the site were removed prior to the offending shot.



Significant explosives accidents and incidents

Explosives Inspectorate

For : December 2006

Security

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

Safety

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Eleven misfires reported for the month – 3 initiation system failures, 2 blasting method, 2 column dislocation, 2 procedure error, 1 slumping and 1 unknown
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	Three boxes with 30 boosters each fell from the locker on the back of the shotfirer's utility van onto the haul road. The boosters were recovered without further incident.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A truck was parked on the shot, in neutral and without brakes applied. The truck rolled 30 metres and came to rest against the drill cuttings of a hole. A non-electric downline spool was damaged, but the downlines were intact.

Our Vision : *Our community safe and secure from explosives*

Nature of Harm	High Potential	Explosive Type	Industry Sector	Description
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A geologist drove onto a loaded blast pattern (not barricaded) while she was in the process of delineating the crest. The sentry did not attempt to prevent her access, even though aware the blasting event was happening.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	A cast blast was being fired when the initiation control row shut down. Shotfirer retrieved suspect 17ms control row leads.
None	Yes	Blasting	Shotfirer	An excavator operator found a rock with emulsion in part of a hole, part of a detonator cord, an unfired detonator with a cut off cord and part of a Pentex P booster
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	Flyrock was thrown onto the road adjacent to the quarry following a shot. No injuries or damage sustained and no detailed cause was found.
None	No	Blasting	Shotfirer	A surveyor found a Pentex P booster with a detonator in the muck pile while conducting a survey.

Chief Inspector of Explosives
