QUARTERLY REPORT

Extractives industry

2025/26 Q1

July to September

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

WORKSAFE
Mahi Haumaru Aotearoa

About this report

This quarterly health and safety performance report has been prepared by WorkSafe New Zealand to provide extractives-specific information to mining, tunnelling and quarrying operations in New Zealand.

The information is derived from a variety of sources but the predominant source is industry itself, through notifiable incident reporting and quarterly reporting.

The report also contains information on the activities of the regulator, as well as commentary on industry performance and focus areas for regulation.

Operators should use the information presented in this report to assist them in improving safety management systems and undertaking risk assessments at their sites.

Foreword

Our mission is to transform New Zealand's health and safety performance towards world-class. To achieve this requires the commitment not just of WorkSafe New Zealand, but of businesses, workers and a wide range of other players in the health and safety system.

Our wider industry is currently experiencing a range of different pressures. For sectors such as the aggregates and tunnelling sectors the last few years have been very tight financially. Conversely, the demand for gold and other minerals worldwide has reached new levels, and there is currently an increase in mining activity going on in areas like New Zealand's west coast, which is experiencing a modern-day gold rush.

Getting around the country and talking to the different sectors has therefore been interesting for me with the sectors reporting very contrasting issues.

I have talked about the risks associated with economic pressure before but on a positive note I think one pleasing issue which I found to be common with all those I spoke to is the industry-wide appreciation that good, competent people are vital to success. The booming sectors are searching for staff, and developing good training and development systems, while the sectors in the doldrums are not forgetting the value of people and are also prioritising the retention of their competent persons.

I believe that most organisations in our extractives sectors now realise that if you are to maintain efficient and safe operations through the cyclic economic times that are almost certain to occur, that you need the very best people and that they are the most valuable asset you have.

Shortening up the employee numbers might give immediate financial relief, but that reduction of capability also has a significant long-term financial implication and does not set any organisation up for prospering in the next boom. When the increase in work and demand does arrive, it is already too late to think about recruiting competent people or starting to train new staff.

Of course, my perspective is not financial, rather that the retention of good competent people is important as they are also vital to the safe running of any operation.

With New Zealand's legal requirements to have CoC holders at all operations, these people are in high demand, and they will not be available at short notice for operators who don't choose to value them through the upturns and downturns of business.

Many of the operators who do respect the value of their people are taking the opportunity of low workloads to improve the competence of their staff by running training or upskilling programs.

Or alternately they were using their existing skilled staff to work on upgrading existing plant or for developing better work processes to improve the organisation's productivity when the next upswing in projects do occur.

You can't purchase people off the shelf when the upturn arrives.

Paul Hunt
Chief Inspector Extractives

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1.0
Industry profile

IN THIS SECTION:

1.1 Operations

4

Metalliferous opencast mines
Includes 1 mine under rehabilitation

19

Coal opencast mines
Includes 1 mine in care and maintenance

8

Metalliferous underground mines
Includes 1 mine under care and maintenance and 2 operating tourist mines

1

Coal underground mines
Includes 1 tourist mine under care and maintenance

4

Tunnels
Does not include tunnels that notified commencement but did not begin operating in the quarter

10

Coal exploration
Ten operational coal exploration projects

74

Alluvial mines
Number of mines that have been verified (58) or have notified of an Appointed Manager to WorkSafe (16)

Includes 2 iron sands mines

1,004

Quarries
Number of quarries that have been verified (840) or have notified of an Appointed Manager to WorkSafe but not yet verified (164)

An important aspect of understanding the health and safety performance of the extractives industry is to understand its makeup in terms of the number and scale of operations and the number and competency of workers involved.

There were 1,118 active operations in New Zealand as at the end of September 2025.

Active mining operations include those that are operating, intermittently operating, under care and maintenance, or undertaking rehabilitation, as well as tourist mines. Active quarries and alluvial mine numbers include operations that have been verified as actively or intermittently operating (that is, visited by WorkSafe), or have notified WorkSafe of an appointed manager.

1.2 People

964

Metalliferous opencast mines
661 FTEs employed by mine operators and 303 FTEs employed by contractors

869

Coal opencast mines
768 FTEs employed by mine operators and 101 FTEs employed by contractors

707

Metalliferous underground mines
579 FTEs employed by mine operators and 127 FTEs employed by contractors

0

Coal underground mines
0 FTEs employed by mine operators and 0 FTEs employed by contractors

239

Tunnels
188 FTEs employed by mine operators and 51 FTEs employed by contractors

1

Coal exploration
7 workers employed by mine operators and 4 workers employed by contractors

648

Alluvial mines
Number of workers is known for 58 of the 74 alluvial mines that are verified and/or have notified of an Appointed Manager. The total number of workers has been extrapolated for the remaining 18 operations

3,224

Quarries
Number of workers is known for 696 of the 1,004 quarries that are verified and/or have notified of an Appointed Manager. The total number of workers has been extrapolated for the remaining 308 operations

There were 6,652 Extractives FTEs in New Zealand as at the end of September 2025. The numbers of workers will also vary from quarter to quarter. Changes in the number of quarry and alluvial mine workers largely reflect the changes in the number of active operations verified by inspectors. Part of those verifications includes determining the number of workers at each operation.

Note: Typically >95% of mining operations and tunnelling operations submit quarterly reports to WorkSafe, and the numbers of workers are reported directly from these figures.

Quarterly reports were provided by 21 alluvial mining operations (28%) and 233 active quarries (23%). That is the reason for the significant difference between the extrapolated numbers of workers and the actual number of workers reported for these sectors in Figure 2. WorkSafe will continue to extrapolate numbers of workers for quarries and alluvial mines until the reporting percentage has improved.

Figure 1 shows the total hours worked in Q1 2025/26, reported to WorkSafe in the quarterly reporting. The hours are separated into Employees and Contractors.

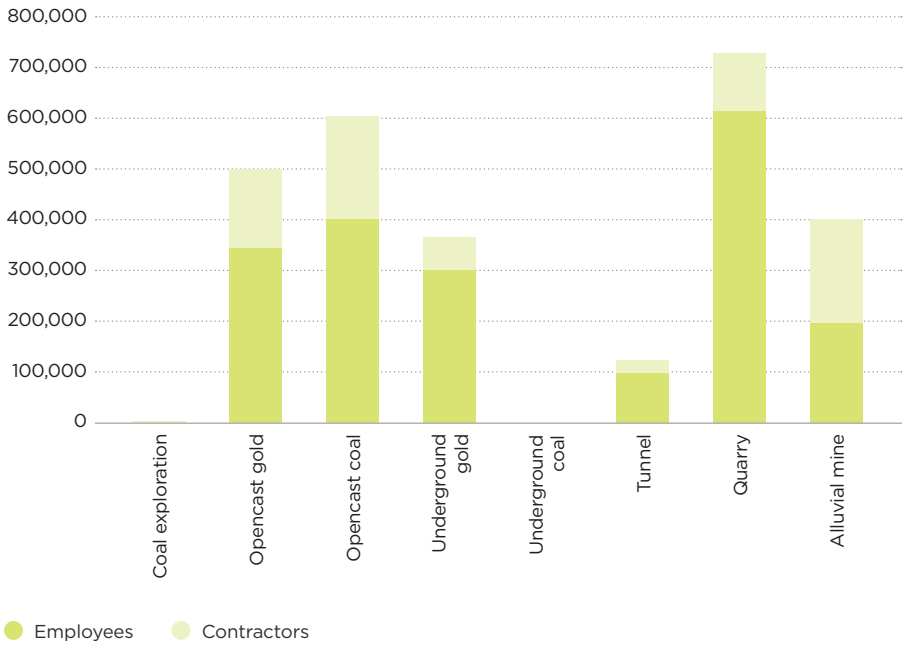


FIGURE 1:
Total hours worked by sector 2025/26 Q1

Figure 2 shows the number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) calculated from total hours worked that were reported to WorkSafe in quarterly reports for Q1 2025/26. The hours are separated into Employees and Contractors.

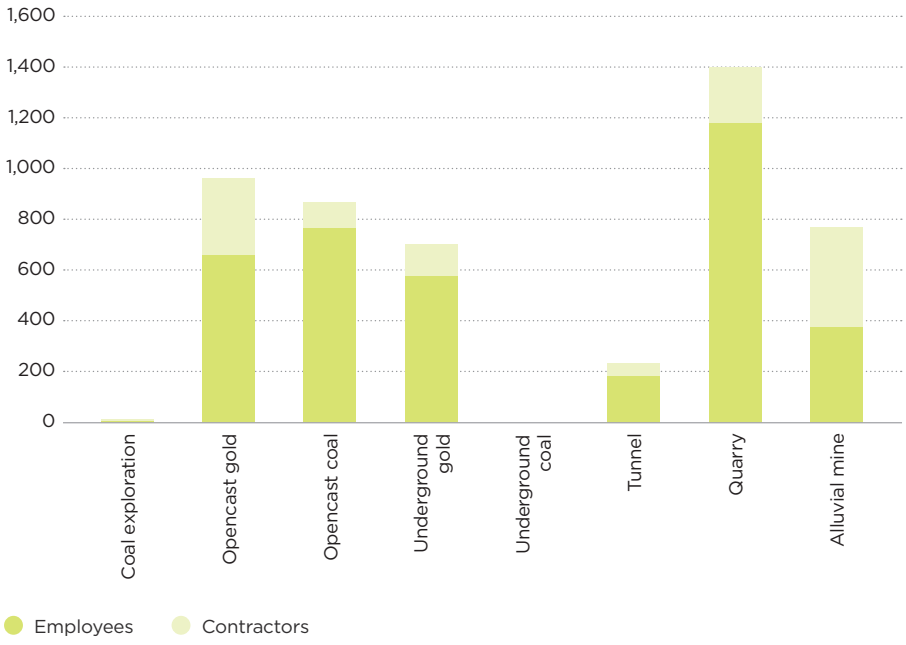


FIGURE 2:
Number of FTEs by sector 2025/26 Q1

1.3 Developing competence

WorkSafe has responsibility for setting competency standards in the Extractives Industry. Improving the competence of the people in the industry is one of the most important aspects of improving health and safety performance. WorkSafe appoints the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners (BoE) to recommend competency requirements, conduct oral examinations and to issue, renew, cancel or suspend Certificates of Competence (CoCs).

The BoE recently discussed the issues associated with applicants acquiring 'additional competencies'. As the creation of 'additional competencies' is relatively new, only having been in place since the regulatory reform, the BoE has only communicated their initial positions on how these would be managed. Now, through the experience of practical implementation, the BoE have identified some areas that needed to be clarified. The BoE would like to advise the following:

1. That you cannot hold an additional competency unless you have a relevant CoC.
2. You can request to be examined on both a CoC and an 'additional competency' at one exam sitting but must pass the CoC to be eligible for acknowledgement of any 'additional competency'.
3. The only outcomes of a combined CoC plus 'additional competency' exam are as follows:
   i. **Competent for a CoC** plus **Competent for an 'additional competency'**. The applicant will receive a CoC with the 'additional competency' noted on the certificate.
   ii. **Competent for a CoC** plus **Not yet competent for an 'additional competency'**. A CoC will be issued but the certificate will not indicate an 'additional competency'. The applicant may request to re-sit the 'additional competency' as a separate exam later.
   iii. **Not yet competent for CoC** or **'additional competency'**. Judgement sheet feedback will be given on **all** the core competencies and the 'additional competency'. **Note**: You may be found competent regarding the 'additional competency', but as the applicant will not receive a CoC, they cannot receive an 'additional competency'. The applicant will need to re-sit both the CoC and the 'additional competency'.
4. You can request to be examined on an 'additional competency' separately, at a later date, any time after obtaining a CoC. If an 'additional competency' is granted later, the 'additional competency' will expire at the same time as the CoC to which it is attached.
5. If a CoC expires, the 'additional competency' expires. You would need to re-sit the 'additional competency' if you required it later for a new CoC.
6. The BoE currently recognise that 'additional competency' is automatic when obtaining a new higher CoC.

   For example, If a B-grade Manager holder holds a CoC with an explosives 'additional competency' and they obtain an A-grade CoC, the A-grade CoC issued will also have the 'additional competency'. This transfer will only apply to the CoCs listed in the SWI, part 29 additional competency requirements for work in operations using explosives.
7. CoC certificates issued should be modified to include presence or absence of 'additional competencies'. This new design will be implemented as soon as possible. This change will require some modifications to the existing system templates.

   For example, 'B-grade quarry manager, including operations using explosives' or 'B-grade quarry manager, operations not using explosives'. **Note**: This will not apply to those with CoCs already issued. For existing CoC holders, updated CoCs will be issued on renewal. The BoE Secretariat will be able to confirm 'additional competency' if required.

Table 1 provides a summary of oral exams conducted during the quarter.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ORAL EXAMS HELD Q1 JUL–SEP 25	TOTAL PASSES	SUCCESS %
20	12	60

TABLE 1: Oral exams conducted

Table 2 provides a summary of all CoCs issued during the quarter and the current number of CoCs in circulation at the end of Q1 2025/26.
Note: We no longer report Life Time CoCs.

COC TYPE	TOTAL COCs RENEWED Q1 Jul–Sep 2025	TOTAL NEW COCs ISSUED Q1 Jul–Sep 2025	TOTAL TTRMA COC ISSUED Q1 Jul–Sep 2025	TOTAL NUMBER OF CURRENT COCs
A-grade Quarry Manager	2	16		339
B-grade Quarry Manager	3	10	1	429
A-grade Opencast Coal Mine Manager	1	0		57
B-grade Opencast Coal Mine Manager	0	2		54
A-grade Tunnel Manager	1	0		41
B-grade Tunnel Manager	6	0		81
A-grade Metalliferous Mine Manager	1	0		1
B-grade Metalliferous Mine Manager	6	0		5
A-grade Alluvial Mine Manager	0	0		1
B-grade Alluvial Mine Manager	0	0		0
Site Senior Executive	4	1	1	60
First Class Coal Mine Manager	3	0		12
First Class Mine Manager	0	0	3	23
Coal Mine Deputy	5	0		28
Coal Mine Underviewer	5	0		20
Mechanical Superintendent	1	0		24
Electrical Superintendent	0	1		22
Ventilation Officer	0	0		6
Mine Surveyor	2	1		14
Manager to manage the quarrying operation specified in the certificate (Site Specific)	1	0		5
Winding Engine Driver	0	0		1
Total	**41**	**32**	**5**	**1,223**

TABLE 2: Certificates of Competence issued and in circulation

2.0 Health and safety performance

IN THIS SECTION:

2.1 Notifiable events

For all extractive operations, notifiable events are required to be reported to WorkSafe under S23(1), S24(1) and S25(1) of the Act, and under Schedule 5 of the Regulations. Notifiable events include any notifiable incidents, notifiable injuries or illnesses, or fatalities.

The tables below show the number of notifiable events and the number of operations that notified events for the previous five years and for Q1 of 2025/26 for mines and tunnels (Table 3) and quarries and alluvial mines (Table 4).

MINES AND TUNNELS	2021/22 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2022/23 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2023/24 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2024/25 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2025/26 Q1
Number of notifiable events	20	21	22	22	26
Number of operations that notified events	11	10	11	9	9

TABLE 3: Mines and tunnels – notifiable events and operations that notified events

QUARRIES AND ALLUVIAL MINES	2021/22 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2022/23 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2023/24 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2024/25 QUARTERLY AVERAGE	2025/26 Q1
Number of notifiable events	14	17	18	21	15
Number of operations that notified events	13	15	17	18	14

TABLE 4: Quarries and alluvial mines – notifiable events and operations that notified events

Figure 3 shows the number of notifiable events reported to WorkSafe by sector from October 2023 to September 2025.

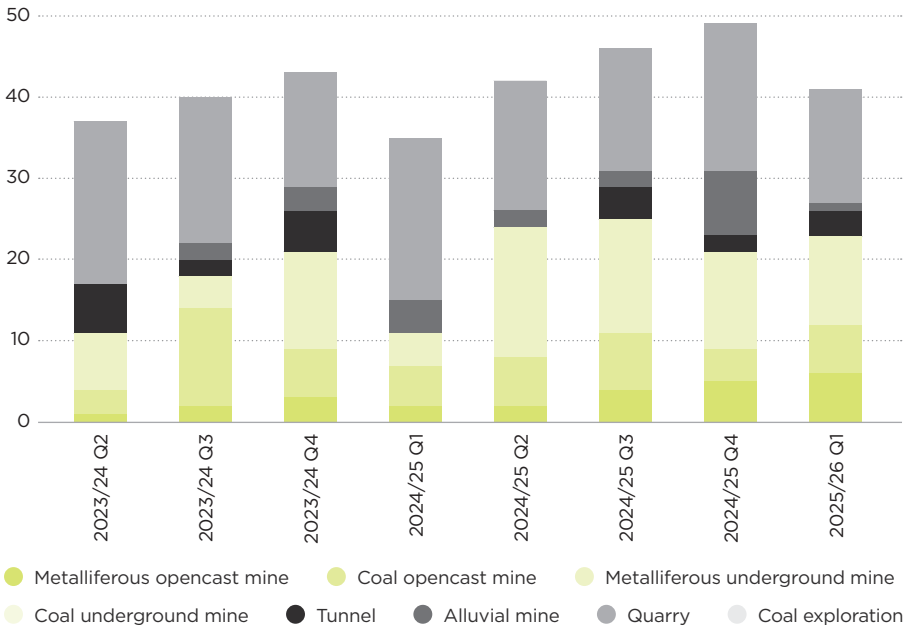


FIGURE 3: Notifiable events by sector

2.2 Injuries

Additional information about injuries is reported to WorkSafe in the form of Quarterly Reports and Records of Notifiable Events under Schedules 6 and 8 of the Regulations.

Figure 4 shows the number of injuries by injury type reported to WorkSafe from July 2022 to September 2025. The graph also shows the rolling 12-month average for the Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR), the rate of recordable injuries that occurred per million hours worked. The current rolling 12-month average TRIFR is 1.69. Rates have fluctuated over past two years without any clear trend.

While TRIFR is not the only measure indicating the health of the industry, it is a useful indicator of how workers are being injured and should be interpreted in conjunction with other data such as notifiable event information.

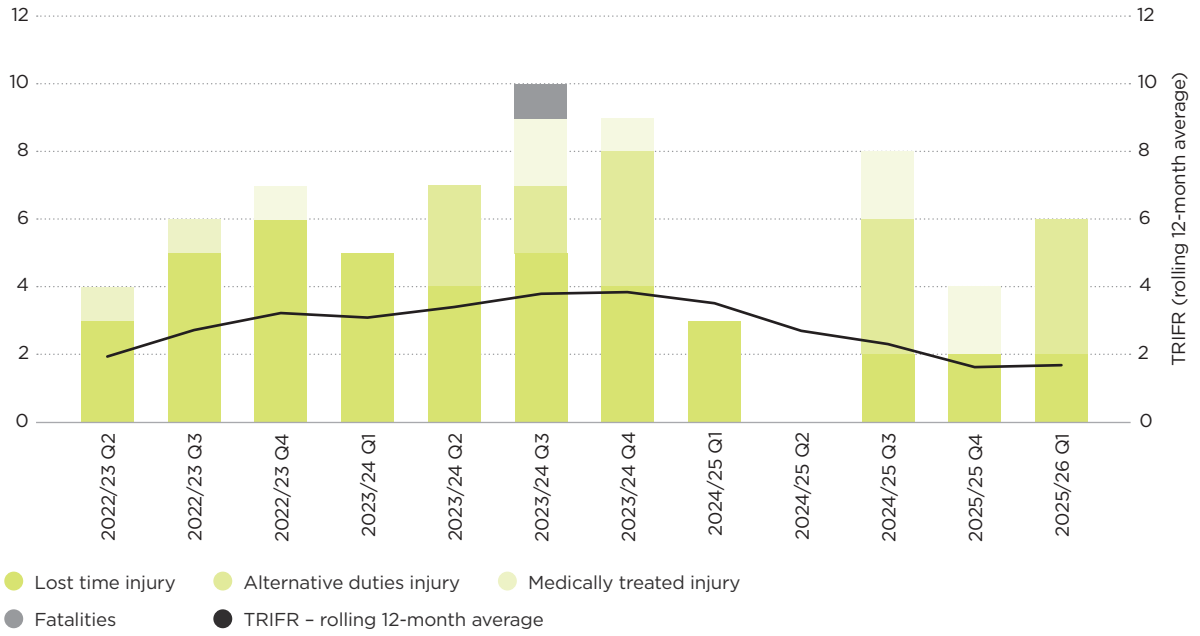


FIGURE 4: TRIFR

The following injury definitions are taken from Schedule 8 of the Regulations:

- **Lost-time injuries** are events that involved injury or illness of a mine worker that resulted in the inability of the worker to work for one day or more (not including the day of the event) during the reporting period (whether the worker is rostered on that day or not).
- **Alternative duties injuries** are events that involved injury or illness of a mine worker that resulted in the worker being on alternative duties during the reporting period.
- **Medical treatment injuries** are work-related injuries to mine workers that required medical treatment during the reporting period but did not require a day lost from work or alternative duties (other than the day of the event).

2.3 Types of events

Figure 5 shows the notifiable event categories for events notified to WorkSafe in the previous 12 months. The data shows that 50% of notifiable events in the past 12 months have occurred in relation to vehicles and plant (34%), and fire, ignition, explosion or smoke (16%). These two categories are broken down in more detail in the following section. A further 11% of notifiable events in the past 12 months occurred in relation to ground, geotechnical and other structural failures.

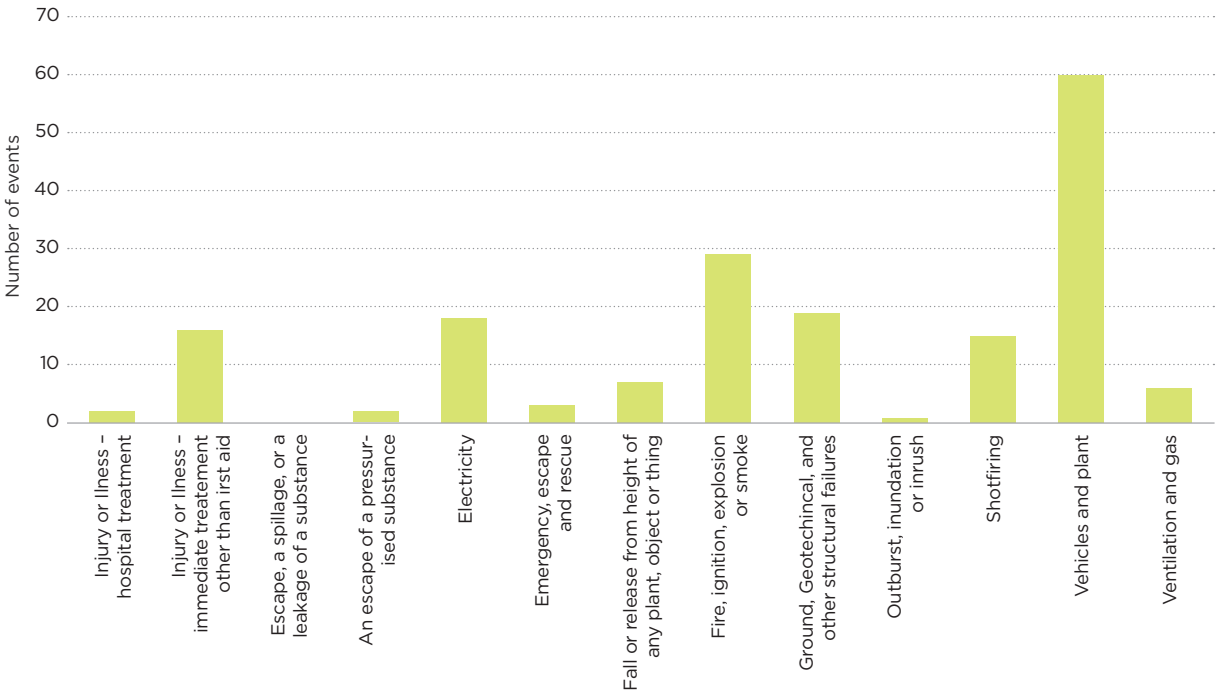


FIGURE 5: Notifiable event categories for the previous 12 months

2.4 Extractives sector focus areas

Where there is a high frequency of notifiable events in any Schedule 5 category, we have broken these events down in more detail to identify key focus areas. We will target our inspections to ensure that operators have adequate controls in place to address these risks.

Figures 6 and 7 break down the two largest notifiable event categories in the past 12 months into the corresponding Schedule 5 sub-categories. The data shows that for notifiable events related to fire, ignition, explosion or smoke, 97% involve fires on plant, mobile plant or in buildings associated with mining or tunnelling activities, and 3% involves the outbreak of a fire on the surface or underground. The vehicle and plant-related notifiable events involve collision of mobile plant with other plant (40%), overturning of mobile plant (40%), breach of a safety berm or windrow (5%), and unintended movement or brake failure (15%).

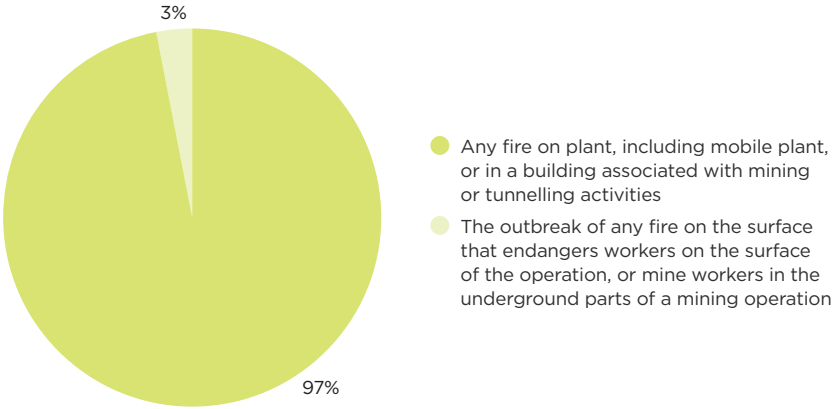


FIGURE 6:
Fire, ignition, explosion or smoke-related notifiable event sub-categories

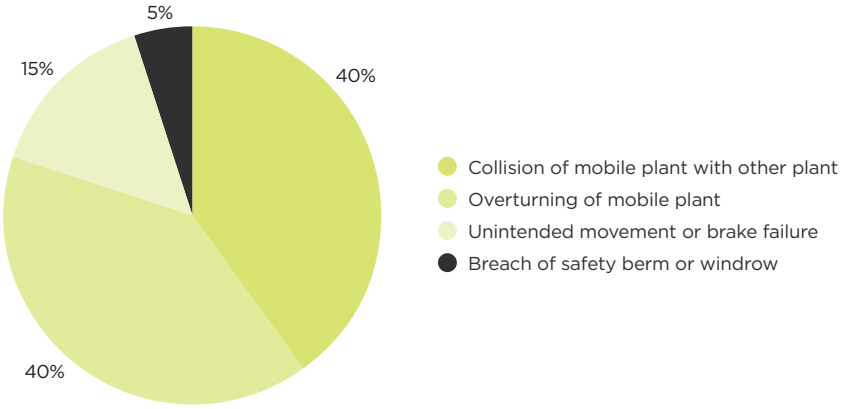


FIGURE 7:
Vehicles and plant-related notifiable event sub-categories

Consistency of reporting

Mining and tunneling data are received from a high proportion of those operations and are considered to be accurate. Notifiable events were reported by 22.5% of operations in the past quarter, and quarterly reports were submitted by 87% of operations this quarter.

Quarrying and alluvial mining data are received from a much lower proportion of those operations and are likely to be less accurate. Notifiable events were reported by 1.2% of operations in the past quarter. Quarterly reports were provided by 21 active alluvial mining operations (28%) and 233 active quarries (23%).

2.5 Regulator comments

Many of the incident investigations we receive include some degree of operator error in the causal factors. Often these errors are inexplicable, and the investigation does not probe into what may have contributed to the operator making a mistake while completing a task that they have successfully completed hundreds if not thousands of times previously without error.

One possible contributor is fatigue, and fatigue is an issue which operators have obligations to manage.

What is fatigue?

Fatigue is a state of physical and/or mental exhaustion which reduces a person's ability to perform work safely and effectively. It can be difficult to determine if a worker is fatigued, or if they are, what might be causing fatigue.

Obligations

- PCBUs must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers, and that others are not put at risk from their work.
- PCBUs must eliminate risks that arise from their work so far as is reasonably practicable. If a risk can't be eliminated, it must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.
- PCBU's may need to manage the risks that arise from fatigue.

Fatigue can occur through sleep problems, working long hours, overly strenuous work, shift work, emotional wellbeing, be related to other medical issues, and/or combinations of these issues.

The extractive industry is now into our summer period when we tend to work longer hours at the surface operations to take advantage of the longer sunlight, and dry conditions. This time of year is also a period when many families enjoy recreational activities later at night or participate in festive celebrations. For some the pressures associated with the Christmas period can be stressful and contribute to fatigue

In the extractives sector fatigue-related mistakes can have significant consequences. An error while operating large excavation equipment can involve loss of control of considerable amounts of energy. More than enough to cause serious harm or fatalities.

It is therefore important operators have developed and implemented fatigue management plans at their operations.

Extractive operators should identify risk areas in relation to fatigue and select the most effective controls to eliminate or minimise those risks. More than one control measure may be required to reduce worker exposure to appropriate levels.

Control measures that will minimise the risks of fatigue include:

- ensuring work schedules enable sufficient sleep opportunities
- monitoring to identify the onset of fatigue and worker impairment
- implementing work arrangements such as breaks or job rotation.

Some important aspects of fatigue management at an Extractive operation include:

- having systems in place to check workers prior and during work
- ensuring workers themselves are trained in issues related to fatigue
- that workers understand the symptoms of fatigue and that there are systems that encourage workers to report
- supervisors should routinely check on workers, especially workers who are working extended hours, especially those workers who are required to make safety critical decisions regularly in their normal work.

For further information see the WorkSafe Fatigue quick guide

2.6 Good practice in practice

Although Inspectors deal with securing compliance as their priority, we often do observe practice which is in exceedance of minimum standards. In this report we intend to highlight some examples of what can be achieved with often just a very simple dedication to getting things right and keeping them right.

The examples we highlight will be discrete examples of how the health and safety system includes something or has been implemented. It should not be seen as a specific endorsement of any specific operator or site by WorkSafe.

We believe that minimum standards are just that. Good operators will aspire to have much better standards in place for all critical risks, and we also believe that sharing what others are doing well with you is just as valuable as sharing what has gone wrong.

Our first example is of good open-edge protection. The choice of material, design, construction and maintenance of bunds is a fundamental issue that most surface extractives sites are required to address.

FIGURE 8:
Open-edge protection at Whangaripo Quarry (Rodney Aggregates Supplies Ltd)

2.7 High potential incidents

A high potential incident at a mine, quarry or tunnel is an event, or a series of events, that causes or has the potential to cause a significant adverse effect on the safety or health of a person.

High potential incidents – 2025/26 Q1

Table 5 provides a summary of high potential incidents notified to WorkSafe in Q1 2025/26. The summaries are an abridged version from the operator's notification report.

INCIDENT DATE	SUMMARY	CONSIDERATIONS
Jul 25	While cleaning around the plant, a loader exposed an underground electrical cable. The electricity was shut off, an electrician called and investigation started.	– Electricity – Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training

INCIDENT DATE	SUMMARY	CONSIDERATIONS
Jul 25	A small excavator was being used to clean up the tunnel/footings of the tunnel excavation and load into a dump truck. The operator had emptied the bucket into the dump truck and then swung back around for another load, raising the boom when the knuckle of the dipper/ boom caught some slack in the 240V lighting cable across the roof pulling the cable from the light fitting. The earth leakage tripped the power to the lights and underground power, including the fan. The earth leakage was reset and all power re-established within 10–15 minutes. The tunnel light system is like a plug and play set up, with the light subsequently replaced. There were no injuries.	– Electricity – Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	The injured person was controlling the hiab to load drill rods into a drill, it appears one end of the rod was being lifted and got caught on the catwalk railing, lifting continued and the rod released suddenly, striking the injured person on the face around the eye socket. This has resulted in several stitches. The injured person was wearing safety glasses which were effective in protecting their eye.	– Release of energy – Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	Air conditioning pump pulley seized causing failure of the bearing, creating heat smoke. Operator pulled into stockpile activated AFFF. Emergency procedure followed. All underground personnel instructed to report to refuge chambers.	– Fire or explosion – Mechanical – Emergency management – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	While dump truck was waiting to dump the dozer backed into P3 tyre.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	While performing cleanup around the mobile screening plant, the loader accidentally reversed into the conveyor.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	Work group was working in the tunnel removing rails, a locomotive approached and stopped approximately 8–10m away from them. One worker, the spotter thought they had signalled the loco to stop, but the loco operator thought they were signalled to move forward slowly. Loco had two flatbed cars in front of it and limited visibility hence the use of a spotter. The locomotive began inching forward at slowest possible speed. As a result, the locomotive made light contact with the spotter and one other worker who were focusing on the next rail removal. They called out loco operator to stop and moved out of the way easily with no harm.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	Worker was backing up the moxy dump truck and misjudged how close to the cone crusher they were and hit the crusher.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Jul 25	Loader driver was cleaning up beside a stockpile. Went too deep with the bucket. Unknowing there was an electrical cable below. Bucket damaged cable, fuses blew wash plant stopped.	– Electricity – Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	Moxy truck with a trainee operator under instruction and observation from an experienced truck operator was reversing into the dump location on the surface waste rock dump when the right hand rear wheel ran up the windrow and the tub slowly rolled onto its side. No injuries were sustained to either operator in the cab and the truck was undamaged.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training

INCIDENT DATE	SUMMARY	CONSIDERATIONS
Aug 25	Single misfire identified by excavator operator in waste rock material.	– Explosives – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	The dump truck was idling outside the tunnel portal waiting for the other two dumpers that were in the tunnel to be filled. When it was their turn to enter the tunnel the operator put it into reverse, disengaged the brakes and pushed down on the accelerator to begin reversing. Instead of reversing, the operator heard a whirring sound and the machine began rolling down the ramp towards the block wall. They tried to steer it away from the wall, but as the starting position was already very close to the wall, the dumper hit the wall after rolling approximately 3–3.5m. The dumper came to a stop, shattering the front windscreen with the engine still on. The dumper was turned off, isolated and coned off.	– Mechanical – Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	Maintenance personnel had completed changing a tyre on an underground agitator. When working to pack up and remove the spare tyre from underground, the tyre has fallen off the IT fork tines and began rolling down the decline.	– Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	While descending the ramp in a haul truck, the operator lost traction and spun around 180°. They did not collide with any other person, equipment or structure.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	The dump truck was finished after repairs and was being spotted out the workshop and has contacted an unoccupied light vehicle parked on the concrete apron, the reversing action was stopped when a witness as they saw the LV at the rear of the dump truck.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	An 8-wheel 45t crane moved uncontrolled at the process plant. It travelled approximately 27m down a slope of approximately 5° until coming to rest on the windrow.	– Mechanical – Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	Supervisor conducting level inspections and found a fall of ground in an old heading.	– Ground or strata instability – Workplace inspections – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Aug 25	Demolition of an old disused laundry room. Personal were removing Gib board to get internal walls for removal. On removal of an electrical cable out of a power socket due to power disconnected correctly the cable came in contact with the person causing an electric shock.	– Electricity – Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	An excavator was scaling wall to win rock for next dump truck load. Then the rock that was exposed in the face dislodged from the face and proceeded down towards the digger making contact.	– Ground or strata instability – Workplace inspections – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	Dozer went off the side of a waste dump oblique to face and overturned.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Ground or strata instability – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training

INCIDENT DATE	SUMMARY	CONSIDERATIONS
Sep 25	Bolt failed while being torqued and ejected suddenly into workshop door. This did not hit anyone but would probably have caused serious harm if it did.	– Release of energy – Job planning – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	Charmec came in contact with light vehicle. After re-starting the Charmec after it had shut down by itself while tramming to next location to charge the operator put it in gear, took the park brake off while applying foot brake, the operator went to move the cable (blue warning light) that was hanging down in the way as didn't want to get tangled in it. As they moved the cable out of the way they got a light tingle from the exposed wires. Their foot slipped off the foot brake and the Charmec moved forward, they tried to re-apply the foot brake and slipped again so they then hit the e-Stop and just kissed the bull bar of the light vehicle as it came to a stop. No personnel were in the vicinity when the vehicles touched.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Electricity – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	Operator identified a misfire in the waste material whilst operating an excavator.	– Explosives – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	Bulldozer was pushing off loads on the dump. Haul truck dumped a load to the left of the dozer. The dozer then reversed backward and made contact with the onside mirror of the truck. No injuries were sustained.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	ADT Cab rolled on cross slope, took corner too wide, operator reversed on slope to correct position, as ADT reversed the cab rolled over.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	As an ADT operator carrying silt material to the overburden area dump reversed, they reversed onto a slight incline and as the material moved, the tray of the ADT turned over. No other people in the area and no one hurt as a result of the incident.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	Operational loader reversed into a water cart that was water spraying the site – no injury.	– Roads and vehicle operating areas – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training
Sep 25	When conducting re-entry personnel identified misfire in the shoulder of the development cut.	– Explosives – Risk assessment – Supervision – Training

TABLE 5: High potential incidents – 2025/26 Q1

Table 6 and Figure 9 shows the number of high potential incidents per quarter during the last two years for all extractives operations.

QUARTER	Q2 OCT-DEC 2023	Q3 JAN-MAR 2024	Q4 APR-JUN 2024	Q1 JUL-SEP 2024	Q2 OCT-DEC 2024	Q3 JAN-MAR 2025	Q4 APR-JUN 2025	Q1 JUL-SEP 2025	TOTAL PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS
Number of high potential incidents	22	25	29	27	35	32	32	28	**127**

TABLE 6: High potential incidents per quarter

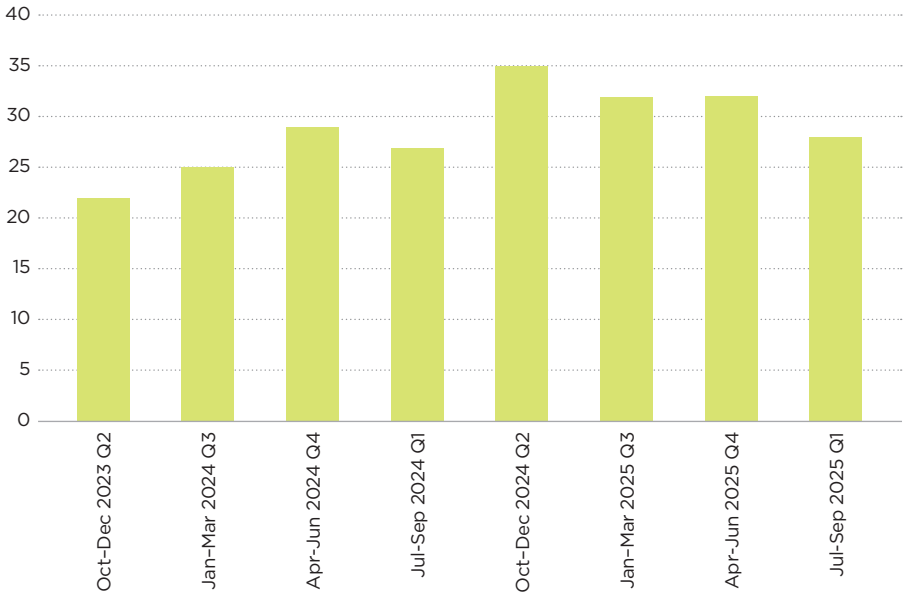


FIGURE 9:
High potential incidents per quarter

2.8 High potential incidents – investigation outcomes

High potential incident case study

Aug 25	Maintenance personnel had completed changing a tyre on an underground agitator. When working to pack up and remove the spare tyre from underground, the tyre has fallen off the IT fork tines and began rolling down the decline.

TABLE 7:
High potential incident – investigation outcomes case study

THE INCIDENT

Following the changing of tyre on an underground Agi, the flat tyre was placed on IT forks to be transported to surface. While the IT was travelling to XC 3 to turn around, the tyre has bounced off the fork tynes and started rolling uncontrolled down the decline. The tyre finally came to a stop at XC 9, travelling a distance of approximately 1.2km. No personnel in line of fire at the time or equipment damaged.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PCBU INVESTIGATION

- Replacement tyre had been transported in vehicle tray to location.
- Take 5's completed focused on the tyre changing task, did not include hazards for transport.
- No JHA used for tyre change task.
- Flat tyre was placed on the IT forks and not secured appropriately.
- Only one underground agitator in service, rushing to complete job, load of shotcrete ready on surface.
- Appropriate ratchet straps were available in IT loader cab.
- Worker involved in task took immediate ownership of failing to secure tyre.

KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE PCBU INVESTIGATION

- All tasks that are not covered by a procedure must have a JHA completed and signed off.
- Any items/materials that have potential to dislodge and fall or move uncontrolled must be secured prior to being moved.
- Take 5 process needs to include all the task steps when considering hazards, not just the job being done, for example, transport to and from a job.

CONCLUSIONS

- **Root cause**: Unsecured load being transported on IT loader forks.
- **Contributing factors**: No actual site procedure for tyre handling/changing on mobile equipment to set standard practice.
- **Systemic factors**: When using Take 5's, the complete task not being considered – focus on activity component, for example, changing the wheel.

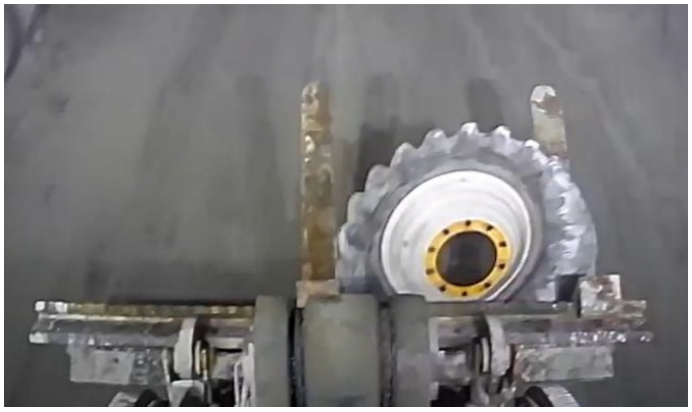
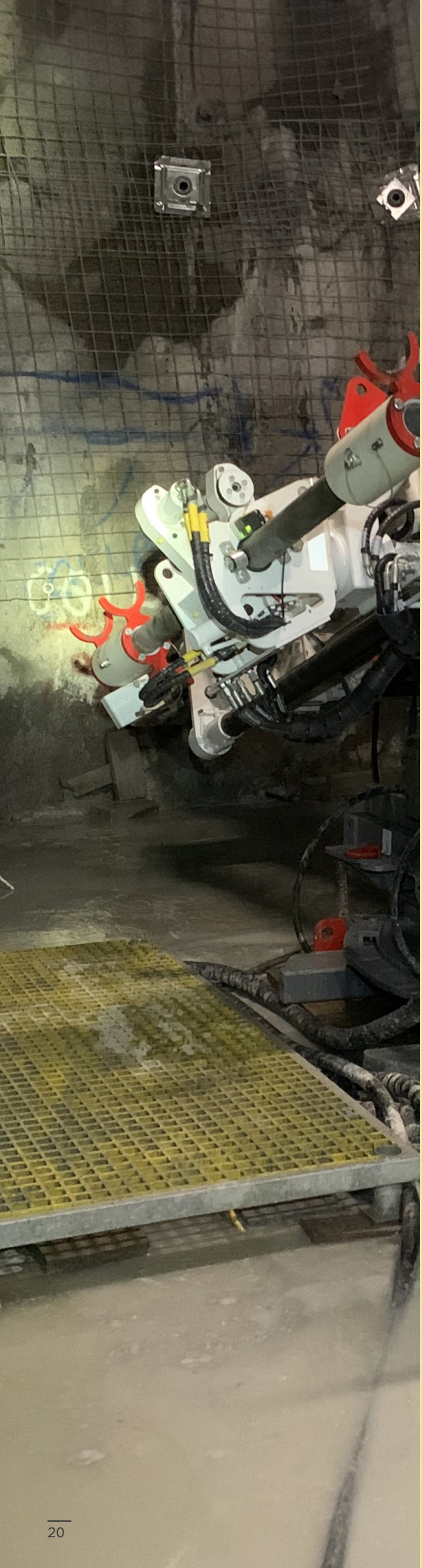


FIGURE 10:
Unsecured load

REGULATOR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When servicing and handling tyres, some precautions are required. These include:

- ensure adequate risk assessment process is completed prior to undertaking task
- follow manufacturers instructions and guidelines – in particular the safe transportation of tyres
- rated and fit-for-purpose jacking pads and jacking equipment and stands
- rated and fit-for-purpose plant for lifting and handling tyres, rims and wheels
- fit-for-purpose machines for mounting, demounting and transporting securing and lashing of tyres
- rated and fit-for-purpose tyre and rim maintenance stands and jigs
- compressed air (or nitrogen) supply of appropriate quality and quantity for tooling and inflation (using separate air supplies and hoses)
- provisions and equipment for safe inflation and deflation of tyres (for example, remote-control inflation systems) and tyre cages
- storage for tools and small parts (for example, valves, O-rings)
- access to vehicle wash-down facilities and general washing facility to clean rim components prior to fitment.



3.0 Regulatory insights

IN THIS SECTION:

3.1 Brand new plant – must be safe right?

When new plant arrives on site, whether it's fixed or mobile, it would pay to check that it meets electrical and mechanical safety standards and if it poses health risks to workers. Assuming plant is safe just because it is new and the salesperson or brochure says it is, could provide a false sense of security. Our inspectors are seeing new plant items arriving on site that require retrofits to bring them to standards we recognise in New Zealand.

'It meets European standards so it must be OK in New Zealand' is a common comment WorkSafe inspectors hear, however this assumption is incorrect. For example, electrical safety legislation specifically references Australian/ New Zealand standards for design and installation.

For certain plant items used underground, low flammability hydraulic oils, steel fuel tanks and fire suppression systems are required among other things. These are not standard items on most imported plant.

Conveyor systems should be designed to specific standards such as *AS/NZS 4024.3610.2015 – General requirements for all conveyors*. This provides general requirements, however other parts of 4024 contain more detail. The general requirements should be used in conjunction with conveyor Standards *AS/NZS 4024.3611* and *3614*.

AS/NZS 4024.3614:2015 is for mobile and transportable conveyors or if you are using are fixed units, *AS/NZS 4024.3611:2015* for belt conveyors for bulk material handling. If you use other types of conveyors, it will pay to refer to all the *4024* sub-parts.

The Health and Safety at Work (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2016 also contain specific requirements for plant design. For example, regulation 123 is specific to conveyor belts. Many importers will be unaware of this.

Are you specifying specific design standards with your equipment supplier?

Suppliers of equipment (this includes imported plant) are required to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 by ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the plant is without risks to the health and safety of persons in a workplace or in the vicinity of one. This duty also carries on through to the installer. Some suppliers may not assess their equipment against the standards mentioned above and consider that the 'so far as is reasonably practicable' test has been met by applying an overseas standard to their design.

In 2026 WorkSafe inspectors will be looking at new plant being supplied into the New Zealand extractives market with a focus on the duty of the supplier. In the meantime, you could save expensive retrofitting by having a conversation with the supplier about mechanical and electrical design standards.

The WorkSafe webpage contains guidance on electrical and mechanical risk management. Section 15 of the Good Practice Guidelines for Health and Safety at Opencast mines, Alluvial mines and Quarries is a great place to start, and it was republished in June 2025.

Dave Bellett
Manager Extractives

4.0
The regulator

IN THIS SECTION:

4.1 Our activities

The Extractives Specialist Health and Safety Inspectors at WorkSafe use a range of interventions to undertake their duties. Inspectors strive to achieve the right mix of education, engagement and where required enforcement. This section of the report includes a summary of the interventions used by the Extractives Inspectors during the quarter.

4.2 Assessments

Proactive assessments aim to prevent incidents, injuries and illness through planned, risk-based interventions. Reactive activities are undertaken in response to reported safety concerns or notifiable events. Assessments can be either site- or desk-based in nature.

For proactive site-based assessments, the objectives of each visit are agreed and the appropriate inspection tool is selected. Targeted assessments and regulatory compliance assessments can take several days on site with a team of inspectors attending. These multi-day inspections may be 'targeted' to assess the controls in place for a particular principal hazard (for example, WorkSafe has been targeting 'roads and other vehicle operating areas' as a result of the high number of notifiable events in this area), or they may involve a more general assessment of 'regulatory compliance'. Site inspections and targeted inspections are generally completed in a one day site visit but can also focus on specific topics.

As well as site-based assessments, the Inspectors spend considerable time undertaking desk-based assessments. Proactive desk-based assessments include the review of Principal Hazard Management Plans (PHMPs), Principal Control Plans (PCPs), mine plans, and high risk activity notifications. Responding to notifiable events and safety concerns may involve a site-based or desk-based assessment, or both.

Table 8 shows the range of assessments undertaken in Q1 2025/26 by sector.

		ASSESSMENTS	MINE	TUNNEL	ALLUVIAL MINE	QUARRY
Proactive	Site-based	Regulatory compliance assessments		1		1
		Site inspections	5	3	10	25
		Targeted inspections	5			1
	Desk-based	PHMP/PCP review				
		Mine plan review	21	15		
		High risk activity	1			
Reactive	Site-based	Concerns – inspection				2
		Notifiable events – inspection				4
	Desk-based	Concerns – desk-based				
		Notifiable event – desk-based	21	5	3	14

TABLE 8: Proactive and reactive site and desk based assessments conducted in Q1 2025/26

Figure 11 shows the number of proactive and reactive site- and desk-based assessments undertaken by the regulator in Q1 2025/26. This quarter 42% of our activities were site-based, and 64% of activities were proactive.

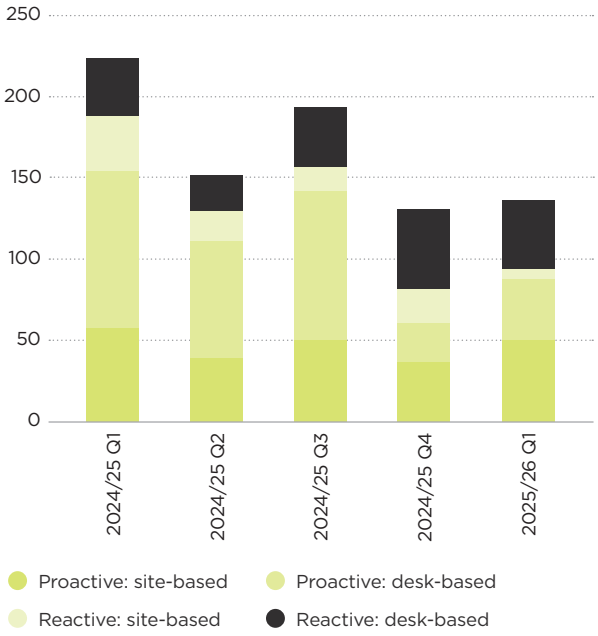


FIGURE 11:
Proactive and reactive site and desk-based assessments

Figure 12 shows the number of assessments undertaken by the regulator in Q1 2025/26 by sector. This quarter, 34% of our assessments were for quarries, 39% for mines, 9% for tunnels and 18% for alluvial mines.

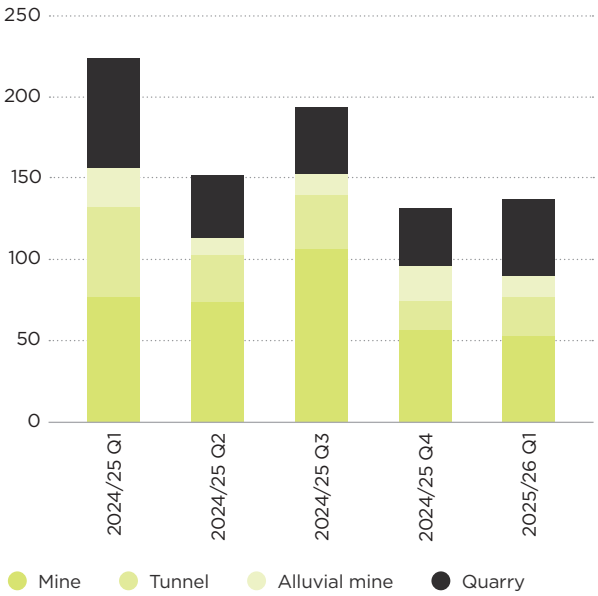


FIGURE 12:
Assessements by sector

4.3 Enforcements

Enforcement actions issued by WorkSafe include prohibition and improvement notices and directive letters. Enforcement actions are issued according to our Enforcement Decision Making (EDM) Model when health and safety issues are identified through assessments.

Figures 13 and 14 show the number of enforcement actions issued in Q1 2025/26 by notice type and by sector. This quarter, a total of 99 enforcement actions were issued. Of those, 3% were prohibition notices, 37% were improvement notices, 59% were directives and 1% were sustained compliance letters. The majority of the enforcement actions were issued to the alluvial mining (29%), and quarrying (55%) sectors.

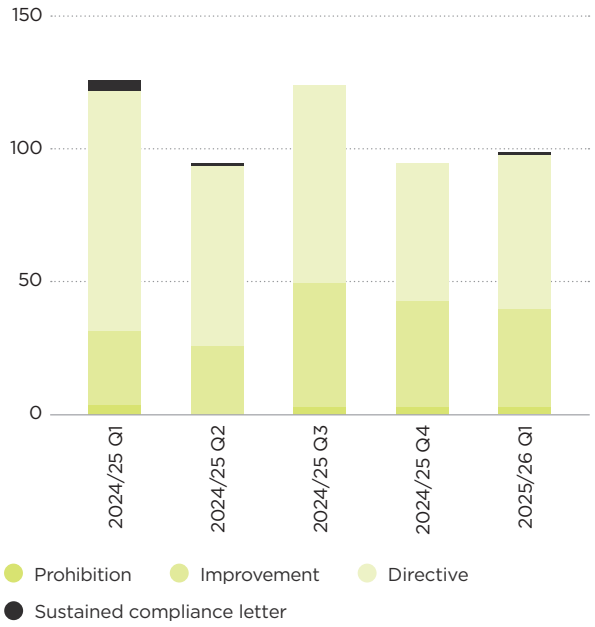


FIGURE 13: Enforcement actions issued by type

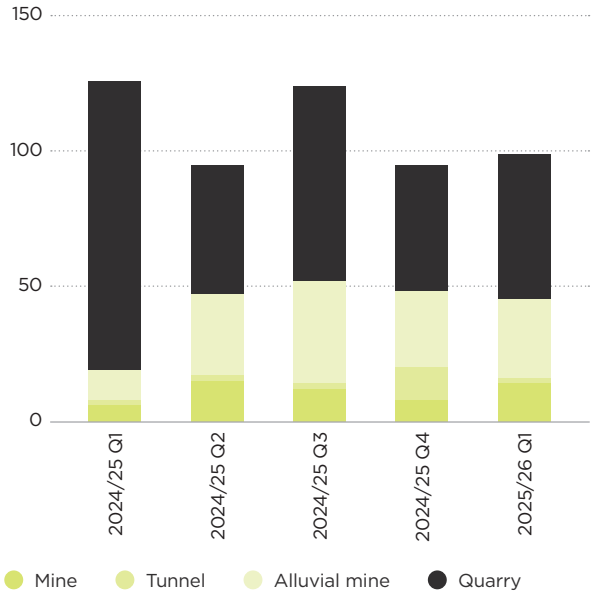


FIGURE 14: Enforcement actions issued by sector

Figure 15 shows the number of enforcement actions issued in Q1 2025/26 by category, and provides an indication of the key areas of concern to our inspectors. This quarter, the majority of enforcement actions were issued for health and safety issues relating to roads and other vehicle operating areas (26%), guarding (27%), and health and safety management systems (10%).

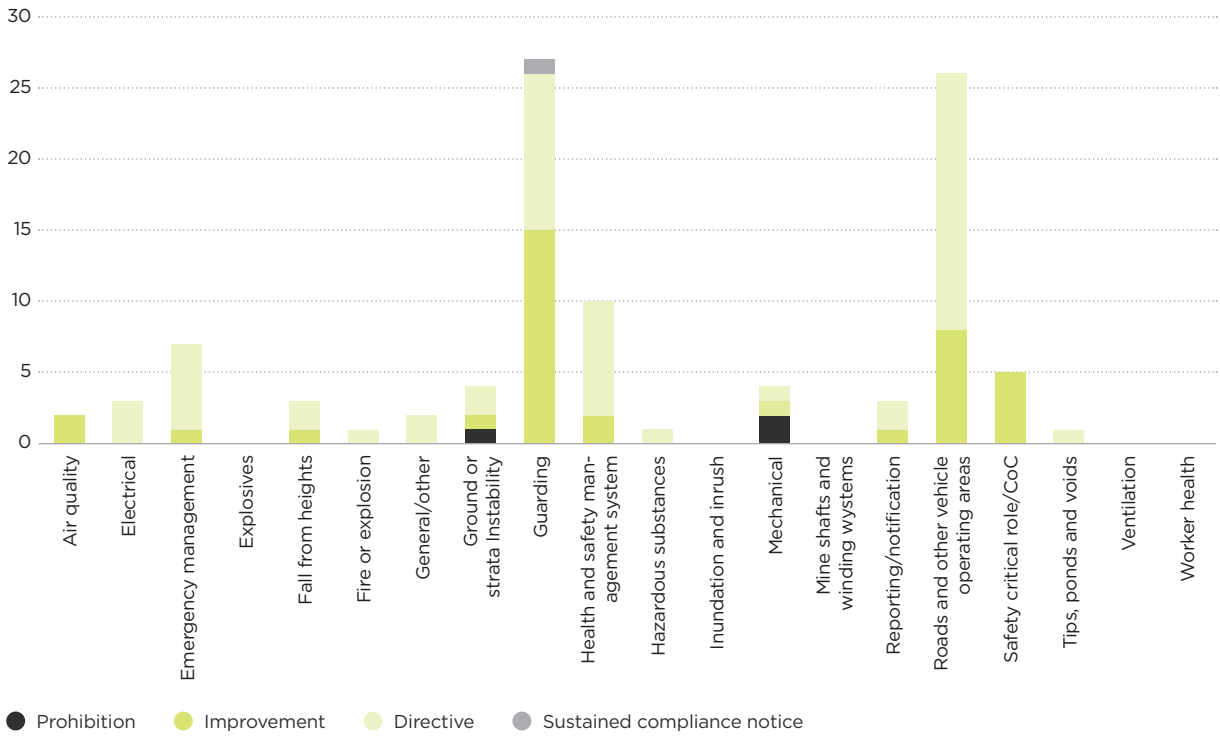


FIGURE 15: Enforcement actions issued by category 2025/26 Q1

Regulator activity comment

The number of inspections is consistent with the 2025/26 inspection plan. This year the inspections will focus on regulatory compliance follow-up at quarries and alluvial mining operations. Last year we sampled 25 larger quarrying and alluvial mining operations for their regulatory compliance following a full year of the amended regulations being implemented. A follow-up inspection will be conducted this year. This year inspectors will also have a general focus on emergency preparedness.

What remains disappointing is the high frequency of guarding non-compliance being observed on inspections, and also the high levels of enforcement around roads and other vehicles operating areas.

Disclaimer

WorkSafe New Zealand has made every effort to ensure the information contained in this publication is reliable, but makes no guarantee of its completeness.

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