

DANGEROUS OCCURENCES IN BC MINES

Significant rise in dangerous occurrences

Over the last few months, there has been an increase in the number of high-potential dangerous occurrences (DO) being reported to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR). DOs are reportable incidents that cause or threatens to cause injury/illness or damage to people, equipment, property, or the environment. They are a reminder that something preventable occurred and that action is required. A DO investigation is an opportunity for a mine to learn and to prevent future incidents. A strong health and safety culture is the key to awareness and prevention; preventing accidents saves lives and the environment.



Photo: SIYAMA9/iStock

A new strategy and reporting system

To ensure consistent regulatory oversight, and to improve overall mine safety, EMPR is improving the way DOs are reported to the ministry; EMPR is switching to a centralized DO reporting system. An all-new toll-free Mine Incident Reporting Line/Email, available 24 hours/seven days a week, has been created, making it easier for mines to report DOs. This system allows for preliminary information reported by the mine to be captured by EMPR in a centralized system and allows EMPR to respond appropriately and, for serious DOs, timely. After the initial report from the mine, an inspector will be assigned to follow-up with the mine to gather further information about the DO and to ensure compliance with the related Code requirements.

Starting on July 13, 2020 mines must report all DOs via:

Mine Incident Reporting Line
24/7 phone: 1-888-348-0299
Email: MineIncidents@gov.bc.ca

Helpful Resources

Sections 1.7.1 to 1.7.3 from the *Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC* outline what types of incidents are considered a DO, and what mines are required to do after a DO occurs at a mine site in BC. To ensure compliance, mines must be familiar with these sections; they contain clear requirements for what mines must do, from identifying, reporting, and investigating a DO and submitting a DO report to EMPR. To assist in remembering the reporting requirements EMPR has produced a poster and a business card template to help inform and remind mining personnel of the new reporting contact information.

For any questions related to the new DO reporting process, please email Mine.Safety@gov.bc.ca.