



Significant Incident Summary No. 13

Worker fatally injured in fall from height

Date: 16 June 2026

NOTE:

This incident is under investigation. This safety alert is based on the preliminary information available at the time of writing and no causative factors have been confirmed.

Incident

In March 2026, a contract night-shift worker was fatally injured while performing maintenance at a mine's processing plant. Preliminary information suggests he may have fallen through an opening in a grid mesh platform adjacent to his work area.

Recommendations

To eliminate or minimise the risk of falls, mine operators should:

- review **risk assessments** for maintenance activities (including changes to plant, equipment, structures or work surfaces) to identify and control fall hazards
- apply the hierarchy of controls when selecting **fall prevention measures** and maintain those controls so they remain fit for purpose and effective
- review **workplace inspection processes** to ensure statutory supervisors and other competent persons conduct field-verification activities to confirm the workplace is free from risks, so far as is reasonably practicable
- provide **effective contractor management**, including clear supervision, coordination and control measures to ensure contracted work is completed safely
- ensure workers are **trained, competent and regularly assessed** in the correct use of fall-restraint or fall-arrest systems, where applicable
- install **adequate lighting** in all work areas so workers can safely identify openings, changes in levels, edges and other hazards.

References and further information

Work Health and Safety Commission

- [*Managing the risk of falls at workplaces: Code of practice*](#)

Department of Local Government Industry Regulation and Safety - WorkSafe

- [*Inspection and maintenance of accessway and platform gratings: Mines safety bulletin No. 176*](#)

Resources Safety & Health Queensland

- [*Safety bulletin: Falls from walkways and platforms*](#)