

MINE ACCIDENTS – March 2006

1 Classification

There were 14 fatalities reported during March 2006.

The gold mining sector reported 11 fatalities (78.6%), and platinum, clay and tantalite one fatality each (7.14%). For the second month running no fatalities were reported in coal mines.

Falls of ground were the cause of six fatalities (42.86%), and machinery and transportation and mining, as well as accidents classified as 04: General, the cause of three (21.43%) fatalities each. Accidents as a result of electricity and explosives (7.14%), killed one worker each respectively.

Two workers died in a fall of ground at President Steyn Gold Mine in the Free State, and three persons were killed in separate accidents at Goldfield's Driefontein Consolidated Mine: one worker was killed in a fall of ground, another died when his leg was caught by a scraper rope and pulled into a winch drum whilst he was cutting off protruding scraper rope wires. A third worker was standing outside the mineshaft when the flooring beneath him gave way and he was instantly killed when he subsequently fell into the ventilation column and down the shaft.

Falls of ground killed one worker each at Durban Roodepoort Deep's Blyvooruitzicht Mine, Harmony's Elandsrand Operations and AngloGold's Tautona Mine.

At AngloGold's Mponeng Mine, a winch operator died when a sudden rush of ore washed him down an ore pass. Whilst cleaning electrical cables, a worker at Harmony's REGM Operations, was electrocuted. A worker at Klei Minerale in Zandfontein, was killed when he crossed a roadway without checking for oncoming traffic. At Pondoland Quarries a worker was killed at a crushing plant when his leg was caught on the flywheel. At Lonmin's Karee Platinum Mine, whilst busy installing rails in an ore pass, an explosion killed a worker. At Harmony's Orkney Operations ARM2, a worker was killed in a mud rush.

Compared to the 14 fatalities reported in March 2006, there were 18 reported in March 2005. The provisional fatality rate for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, (201 actual fatalities), is 0.45 per 1 000 persons at work (0.20 per million hours worked), which compares well with the 0.54 per 1 000 persons at work (0.24 per million hours worked), for the corresponding period in 2004 (238 actual fatalities).

2 Single fatalities

The following mines reported accidents resulting in single fatalities:

- GOLD MINES

Harmony

Elandsrand
REGM Operations
Orkney ARMS 2

Anglogold

Mponeng
Tautona

Durban Roodepoort Deep

Blyvooruitzicht

- PLATINUM MINES

Lonmin

Karee Platinum

- CLAY

Klei Minerale Zandfontein

- TANTALITE

Pondoland Quarries