

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES: MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY STATISTICS

1. 2022 highlights

Occupational fatalities:

- In the year 2022, 49 fatalities were reported versus 74 in the year 2021, this translates to 34% improvement in the number of fatalities year on year.
- 70% reduction of mine deaths from fall of ground (FOG) accidents dropped from twenty (20) in 2021 to six (6) in 2022.
- No FOG fatal accident was reported from the gold sector for seven consecutive months, from January to July of 2022.
- The only 3 fatalities due to FOG in the gold sector occurred in August, November, and December of 2022.
- Only 1 FOG fatal accident was reported due to seismicity in 2022
- Coal, Platinum and Chrome underground mines, each reported only 1 FOG related fatality throughout the year 2022.
- 100% reduction in machinery related fatalities, no fatalities were reported in 2022 under this category versus the three (3) fatalities in 2021.
- No disasters have been recorded in the year 2022. Disasters are defined as accidents where five or more employees lose their lives in the same accident.

Occupational injuries:

- A 4% decrease in the number of injuries, from 2143 in the year 2021 to 2056 in the year 2022.

Occupational diseases:

- Occupational diseases decreased by **4.42%**, from **2 013** cases in 2020 to **1 924** cases in 2021.
- The silicosis cases decreased by **11.43%** from **271** cases in 2020 to **240** cases in 2021.
- The pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) cases decreased by **6.60%** from **849** cases in 2020 to **793** cases in 2021.

- The noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) cases increased by **5.15%** from **738** cases in 2020 to **776** cases in 2021.

2. Breakdown of fatalities per commodity year on year (2021 versus 2022)

- the gold sector has improved by 50% from 30 fatalities in 2021 to 15 fatalities in 2022,
- the platinum sector has improved by 14% from 21 fatalities in 2021 to 18 fatalities in 2022,
- the coal sector has improved by 50% from 10 fatalities in 2021 to 5 fatalities in 2022
- the other mines* sector has improved by 15% from 13 fatalities in 2021 to 11 fatalities in 2022.

3. Major contributors to fatalities year on year (2021 versus 2022)

- Transportation and Mining (Trackless Mobile Machinery) increased from 16 in 2021 to 17 in 2022
- General (slip & fall; rolling rocks; struck by an object; mud-rush, falling from height) decreased from 21 in 2021 to 16 in 2022
- Fall of ground (Gravity induced and Seismicity) decreased from 20 in 2021 to 6 in 2022

4. Breakdown of injuries per commodity year on year (2021 versus 2022)

- The number of injuries in the gold sector decreased from 738 in 2021 to 586 in 2022
- The number of injuries in the coal sector increased from 170 in 2021 to 180 in 2022
- The number of injuries in the platinum sector increased from 1027 in 2021 to 1030 in 2022
- The number of injuries in other mines increased from 208 in 2021 to 260 in 2022

5. Major contributors to injuries year on year (2021 versus 2022)

- Transportation and Mining (Trackless Mobile Machinery) increased from 329 in 2021 to 376 in 2022
- General (slip & fall; rolling rocks; struck by an object; mud-rush, falling from height) decreased from 1171 in 2021 to 1124 in 2022
- Fall of ground (Gravity induced and Seismicity) decreased from 373 in 2021 to 295 in 2022

6. Occupational health statistics year on year (2020 versus 2021)

The Annual Medical Reports decreased by one report, from 932 reports in 2020 to 931 reports in 2021.

Occupational diseases decreased by 4.4%, from 2 013 cases in 2020 to 1 924 cases in 2021.

The silicosis cases decreased by 11.4% from 271 cases in 2020 to 240 cases in 2021.

The pulmonary tuberculosis cases decreased by 6.6% from 849 cases in 2020 to 793 cases in 2021.

The noise-induced hearing loss cases increased by 5.2% from 738 cases in 2020 to 776 cases in 2021.

7. Health and safety improvement measures

• Collaboration with stakeholders

- Engaging Union Leadership, CEOs and Boards of Directors of different mining houses to enhance the concerted efforts in the eradication of mine deaths.
- Continue with the stakeholder collaborations in implementing the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) and Mining Qualification Authority (MQA) programmes.
- DMRE involvement in the planning and participation at CoalSafe 2022.
- DMRE involvement in the planning and participation at 2022 Tripartite Health and Safety Summit.
- The DMRE in collaboration with the mining companies and organised labour continuously conduct OHS awareness campaigns and imbizos.
- Ensure that Regional Tripartite Forums are held to engage on health and safety matters.
- Ensure that all mines collaborate with inspectors and organized labour to have health and safety days and campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of adhering to health and safety protocols.

• Adoption of leading practice and technology

- Ensure that safe technologies and mining practices are adopted given that a significant number of accidents occurred whilst opening or mining in old areas.

• Promulgation of legislation

Honourable Minister of Minerals and Energy published by notice in the government gazette:

- 2022 MHS Amendment Bill for public comments and deliberations at NEDLAC
- Amendment of Chapter 21 reporting forms in terms of regulation 9.2(7) relating to airborne pollutants, heat & cold stresses, and noise exposures.
- Revised regulations 28.10 and 28.12 in force in terms of Schedule 4 of MHSA relating to the Government Certificate of Competency (GCC) fees for public comments and subsequent implementation.
- The 21st of December 2022 as a commencement date of regulation relating to diesel powered trackless mobile machines and issues collision avoidance systems.

• Chief Inspector of Mines Directives/ Instructions

Chief Inspector of Mines issued health and safety directives/instructions during 2022:

- Guiding principles on the revised measures for the prevention, mitigation, and management of Covid-19 pandemic in the South African Mining Industry.

- Mine fires, explosions as well as emergency preparedness and response in confined mining spaces including underground workings.
 - Prevention and management of fires affecting mine conveyor belts
 - Management of mine residue deposits (MRD) as per the mandatory code of practice prepared and implemented in terms of section 9(2) of the mine health and safety act, 1996.
 - Health incidents and Annual Medical reporting.
- **Enforcing and monitoring of compliance**
 - The Department will continue to enforce and monitor compliance of health and safety at mines by conducting focused inspections and audits.

*Other mines include chrome, manganese, nickel, copper, sand, diamond, zinc, lime, granite and bricks.

Ends – **Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy**