

SAFETY IN THE MINING INDUSTRY: PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

April 2019



MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA



Harmony, Tshepong

“10% improvement
in safety performance
with 81 fatalities
in 2018.”

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE TO DATE

The mining industry has been working tirelessly for more than 20 years to improve its safety performance. As a result, an 88% improvement in fatality rates has been realised – from 615 in 1993 to 73 in 2016.

A sharp deterioration was, however, recorded in 2017 with 90 fatalities. This prompted the Minerals Council South Africa Board, through the CEO Zero Harm Forum, to initiate a number of measures to address the regression in safety performance.

The National Day of Safety & Health in Mining campaign, launched in 2018, fulfilled the objectives of the annual company health and safety days outlined in the Tripartite Pledge signed at the Mine Health and Safety Summit in November 2016. The pledge declared a set of actions aimed at improving the industry's occupational health and safety performance by changing behaviour and improving the organisational culture of safety in mining operations.

The National Day of Safety & Health in Mining signalled the start of a month-long initiative for member companies to visibly and publicly recommit to the shared goal of zero harm. It also ensured that all employees were able to work in the knowledge that they would return home unharmed every day.

Minerals Council member companies have hosted a total of 93 safety and health days at their operations.

Greater awareness of safety and health has led to a 10% decrease in the number of fatalities to 81 in 2018. The improvement in safety performance was particularly evident in the second half of the year.

As at 25 March 2019, the total number of fatalities reported by all mines was eight versus 16 in the same period of 2018 – an improvement of 50% year-on-year.

QUICK FACTS

10%



SAFETY PERFORMANCE
IMPROVEMENT

RE-
GRESSION
IN 2017



FIRST TIME
IN 10 YEARS

88%



REDUCTION IN FATALITIES
FROM 1993 TO 2016

R250
MILLION



DEEP-LEVEL MINING
SEISMICITY RESEARCH

Fatalities

Commodity	2017	2018	% change
Gold	40	40	-
Platinum	29	12	(58)
Coal	10	9	(10)
Other*	11	20	82
Total	90	81	(10)

Source: Department of Mineral Resources

* Other includes diamonds, chrome, copper, iron ore and all others not specified

Injuries

Commodity	2017	2018	% change
Gold	1,021	880	(14)
Platinum	1,048	1,154	10
Coal	202	167	(17)
Other*	398	149	(63)
Total	2,669	2,350	(12)

Source: Department of Mineral Resources

* Other includes diamonds, chrome, copper, iron ore and all others not specified

Causes of fatalities

Commodity	2017	2018	% change
Falls of ground	32	22	(31)
Transport and mining	23	17	(26)
General*	26	16	(38)
Machinery	5	2	(60)
Other**	4	24	500
Total	90	81	(10)

Source: Department of Mineral Resources

* General includes struck, falling, drowning, inundation, mud rush, burning and scalding

** Other includes electricity, fires, explosives, heat exhaustion and miscellaneous



Anglo American Platinum, Polokwane Smelter

JOURNEY TOWARDS ZERO HARM: SAFETY MILESTONES

1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mine Health and Safety Act introduced Mine Health and Safety Council established
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Learning Hub established
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety included in revised Mining Charter
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture Transformation Framework approved by tripartite stakeholder principals
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO Zero Harm Forum established
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripartite stakeholders agree on 2014 milestones for health and safety Centre of Excellence launched
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripartite stakeholders sign declaration of actions (pledge) as step change in improving industry occupational health and safety performance, harnessing achievement of 2014 milestones and accelerating industry's journey to zero harm
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOSH fall of ground task team established
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Day of Safety and Health in Mining 2018 launched CEO 'heartfelt conversations' workshop

2020 MILESTONES

Fatalities	Every fatality is one too many. We will eliminate fatalities by December 2020. During the 2014 MHSC Summit, all stakeholders agreed that we needed to accelerate the elimination of fatalities.
Injuries	Up to December 2017, there has been a 9% reduction in serious injuries every year. From January 2017, there was a 20% reduction in lost time injuries (LTIs).

CONTACT DETAILS

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