

# SAFETY IN THE MINING INDUSTRY: PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

January 2020



**MINERALS COUNCIL**  
SOUTH AFRICA



Anglo American Platinum - Dishaba mine

In 2019, the industry saw a 37% improvement in safety performance with 51 fatalities.

## OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE TO DATE

**Significant strides in improving industry safety and health performance in recent years have been possible through the collaborative efforts of employees and unions, the support of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), and mining companies. These efforts have helped contribute to a 92% fall in fatalities since 1993, from 615 in 1993 to 51 in 2019.**

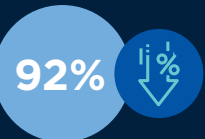
A sharp regression was, however, recorded in 2017 with 90 fatalities. This prompted the Minerals Council South Africa Board, through the CEO Zero Harm Forum, to initiate a number of measures to address the industry's safety performance.

In August 2018, the Minerals Council launched the National Day of Safety and Health in Mining campaign, fulfilling 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.

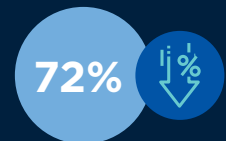
The National Day of Safety and Health in Mining signalled the start of an initiative for member and non-member companies to visibly and publicly reaffirm their commitments to health and safety. Over the months that followed, health and safety days were hosted at 93 operations around the country, and the improving safety trend continued.

But the Minerals Council acknowledged that further collective efforts were necessary to achieve zero harm, and the 2024 Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) milestones agreed to by companies, government and labour. In January 2019, the CEO Zero Harm Forum held the CEO Heartfelt Conversations, an event to facilitate meaningful engagement amongst mining CEOs on health and safety-related issues. The Heartfelt Conversations examined a number of crucial issues, particularly in respect of visible leadership. A direct outcome of the event was the establishment of a CEO-led strategy on health and safety, Khumbul'ekhaya.

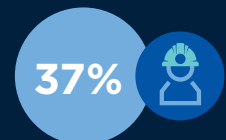
## QUICK FACTS



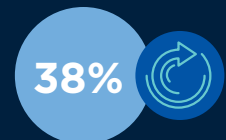
DECLINE IN FATALITIES  
SINCE 1993



DECREASE IN  
INJURIES SINCE 1993



REDUCTION IN FATALITIES  
BETWEEN 2018 AND 2019



IMPROVEMENT IN FATALITY  
FREQUENCY RATE BETWEEN  
2018 AND 2019

Khumbul'ekhaya, a Nguni word meaning “remember home”, is a rallying cry for a step-change in health and safety performance, driven at the highest levels of our industry. Formally launched on 1 October 2019, this strategy promotes a holistic approach to the elimination of fatalities as a result of both safety and health incidents. The National Day of Safety and Health in Mining continued in October, with companies rolling out the Khumbul'ekhaya messaging on mine over the final months of the year. In 2019, the total number of fatalities was 51 – an improvement of 37% on the year before.

## Fatalities

| Commodity    | 2018      | 2019      | % change    |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Gold         | 40        | 18        | (55)        |
| Platinum     | 12        | 20        | 67          |
| Coal         | 9         | 7         | (22)        |
| Other*       | 20        | 6         | (70)        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>(37)</b> |

Source: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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

## Injuries

| Commodity    | 2018         | 2019         | % change   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Gold         | 905          | 732          | (19)       |
| Platinum     | 1,049        | 1,151        | 10         |
| Coal         | 169          | 224          | 33         |
| Other*       | 324          | 299          | (8)        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,447</b> | <b>2,406</b> | <b>(2)</b> |

Source: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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

## Causes of fatalities

| Commodity            | 2018      | 2019      | % change    |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Falls of ground      | 22        | 20        | (9)         |
| Transport and mining | 16        | 18        | 13          |
| General*             | 16        | 5         | (69)        |
| Machinery            | 3         | 1         | (67)        |
| Other**              | 24        | 7         | (71)        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>81</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>(37)</b> |

Source: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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

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

## JOURNEY TOWARDS ZERO HARM: SAFETY MILESTONES

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1996 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine Health and Safety Act introduced</li> <li>Mine Health and Safety Council established</li> </ul>  |
| 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mining Industry Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Learning Hub established</li> </ul>   |
| 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and safety included in revised Mining Charter</li> </ul>   |
| 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culture Transformation Framework approved by tripartite stakeholder principals</li> </ul>   |
| 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEO Zero Harm Forum established</li> </ul>  |
| 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tripartite stakeholders agree on 2014 milestones for health and safety</li> <li>Centre of Excellence launched</li> </ul>  |
| 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tripartite stakeholders sign declaration of actions (pledge) as step-change in improving industry occupational health and safety performance, harnessing achievement of 2024 milestones and accelerating industry's journey to zero harm</li> </ul> |
| 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOSH fall of ground task team established</li> </ul>  |
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Day of Safety and Health in Mining 2018 launched</li> </ul>  |
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEO Heartfelt Conversations held</li> <li>Khumbul'ekhaya health and safety strategy launched</li> </ul>   |

## 2020 MILESTONES

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Fatalities</b> | 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. |
| <b>Injuries</b>   | Since 2003, there has been an overall reduction in injuries by 44%.   |

## CONTACT DETAILS

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