

Moranbah mine explosion leaves five people in serious condition

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Anglo American says the mine has been evacuated and all other personnel are accounted for.
(Supplied)

Five people have serious injuries after an explosion at Grosvenor coal mine at Moranbah in central Queensland's Bowen Basin.

The patients suffered burns to their upper bodies and airways and were taken to Moranbah Hospital in a serious condition.

Key points:

Five workers have suffered serious injuries

Ambulance crews were called to the scene just after 3:00pm and multiple rescue helicopters were called in.

A spokesperson for Queensland Mines Minister Anthony Lynham said the explosion took place at Grosvenor coal mine, which is operated by Anglo American.

In a statement, mining company Anglo American said it was in the process of evacuating the mine and the emergency response was underway.

"Five people have been injured and transported to hospital. All of the injured people's families have been contacted," it read.

"All remaining onsite personnel have been accounted for. The mine is in the process of being evacuated and operations stopped. Emergency response is currently underway.

"The mines inspectorate has been contacted and Anglo American is working to ensure the injured people have the best available medical care."

after an explosion at the coal mine

The injured have significant burns to their torsos and airways

Mining company Anglo American says the mine has been evacuated and all other personnel are accounted for



The Grosvenor coal mine is about 5 kilometres outside of Moranbah in Queensland.

Two rescue helicopters and three LifeFlight rescue jets were deployed to assist in the medical response.

A spokesperson for the Queensland Mines Inspectorate confirmed it had received reports of five injured workers.

"Mines Inspectors have deployed to Grosvenor Coal Mine, near Moranbah, following an incident at the mine on Wednesday 6 May," the statement read.

"The mine operator has advised the Inspectorate that all mine workers were evacuated and have been accounted for."

'Explosions the worst nightmare for underground miners'

Queensland Ambulance Service spokeswoman Bridgette Seymour said officers arrived at the mine site shortly after 3:00pm and the five injured workers were taken to hospital.

"At the moment, our officers have got the five patients in serious conditions, all with significant burns," she said.



Ms Seymour said they would be flown to Brisbane this evening for treatment if medical teams deemed it safe.

She said Rescue Services Queensland would be "working with the teams on the ground there to make sure the patients are stable and bring them back safely to the Brisbane area".

In a statement, the CFMEU said it was aware of an event that occurred underground at the mine.

"Union safety inspectors are attending the site and will undertake a thorough, independent investigation into causes of what appears to be an ignition of gas on the longwall face," the statement read.

Stephen Smyth, president of the CFMEU Mining and Energy Queensland District, said the immediate priority was taking care of affected workers.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured workers and their families, and all the workers at Grosvenor affected by today's events," Mr Smyth said.

"The union will do everything possible to support a return to safe conditions at the mine and get to the bottom of what has occurred today.

"Explosions are the worst nightmare for underground coal miners; we will make sure no stone is left unturned," he said.

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Three LifeFlight rescue jets were deployed to assist in the medical response. (*Supplied: RACQ LifeFlight Rescue*)

Queensland Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington said she was "praying for the safety of the miners" injured in the explosion.

"There have been too many tragedies in our mines in the past 18 months and this news is another terrible shock for the industry," Ms Frecklington said.

"My thoughts are with these workers and with their families, friends and workmates.

"This incident is a reminder of the very real risks that mine workers take every day to provide for their families and their communities.

"Every Queenslanders should be able to go home safely when their work is done," she said.