

QLD NEWS

# Five miners fighting for live after explosion at Grosvenor coal mine

**Four men are fighting for life in a Brisbane hospital today after a major explosion at a central Queensland underground coal mine left them with critical burns. A fifth miner was seriously injured in the incident.**

Cormac Pearson, Melanie Whiting, Tara Miko, Jack McKay, The Courier-Mail  Subscriber only | May 7, 2020 8:35am

FOUR miners are today fighting for their lives after a [major explosion at a central Queensland underground coal mine](#) in one of the biggest accidents to rock the industry in recent years.

An ignition of gas is believed to have caused the explosion underground at Anglo American's Grosvenor Mine near Moranbah about 3.15pm on Wednesday.

Four of the men are this morning in a critical condition in Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital suffering burns to the upper torso and airways. They have been intubated and are on ventilators.

The fifth man is in a serious condition. Three of the miners are aged in their 40s and two in their 50s.


[Near-misses soar at Qld mines months after safety reset](#)

[Mine worker killed in machinery accident identified](#)

Paramedics were called to treat the five people in a serious condition with significant burns to their bodies before they were rushed to Moranbah Hospital. Three were flown by RACQ LifeFlight Rescue air ambulance jets and two by the Royal Flying Doctor to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, arriving late last night.

"It was certainly a nasty incident and four of the patients were critically unwell and the fifth gentleman is seriously unwell," Metro North chief operation supervisor Doug Buchanan said.



 An injured mine worker is transferred from an air ambulance to be taken to hospital in Brisbane on Wednesday night. Picture: Josh Woning/AAP

Two mine inspectors were rushed to the site last night, with more to come today.

The tragedy sparked an outpouring of sympathy from the community, with Mackay MP Julieanne Gilbert describing it as "terrible".

"I'm thinking of these workers, their families and colleagues," Mrs Gilbert said.

"Everyone deserves to be safe at work."

Burdekin MP Dale Last, who was in the mining community of Middlemount yesterday when the incident unfolded, said it had sent shockwaves through the industry.

"Everyone was very sombre, very concerned," he said.

“My thoughts and prayers are with the injured miners, their family and friends.

“It has come as a big shock to the resource sector, which is a very close-knit community.”

Capricornia MP Michelle Landry said her heart and thoughts were with those impacted by the disaster.

“Everyone deserves to come home safe from work,” she said.

“To their friends, families and colleagues, my thoughts are with you as well during this time.”



Injured workers from an explosion at Grosvenor coal mine at Moranbah arriving in Brisbane. Picture: Josh Woning/AAP

CFMEU Mining and Energy Queensland district president Stephen Smyth said the first 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,” he 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.



A patient is transferred from a RFDS plane to a waiting ambulance in Brisbane. Picture: Josh Woning/AAP

“Explosions are the worst nightmare for underground coal miners.

“We will make sure no stone is left unturned.”



An ambulance on its way to hospital after air ambulance landed in Brisbane. Picture: Josh Woning/AAP

An Anglo American spokeswoman said the company had contacted all the injured workers’ families.

“All remaining onsite personnel have been accounted for,” she said.

“The mine is in the process of being evacuated and operations stopped.



 The entry to Anglo American's Grosvenor mine near Moranbah. Picture: Tony Martin

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

It has been almost four months since the last major Queensland mining incident after [Donald Rabbitt's death at a Blackwater mine](#).

Before that, there had been seven deaths in the state's mines and quarry industry within 18 months.

Mines Minister Anthony Lynham said he expected a “thorough independent investigation” by the mine safety regulator, and that his primary concern was for the injured workers and their families.

“My thoughts and prayers are with them and their workmates,” he said.

“They are in the best of hands with Queensland's world class medical teams in our public hospitals.

“I'm advised that two mines inspectors are on site, and two more will arrive tomorrow, including the Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines.

“All other workers are accounted for and operations have ceased.”