

## SERIOUS ACCIDENT

### Gas Ignition Event Underground

#### **Purpose**

*Notification of the occurrence of a serious accident in the mining industry.*

*Encourage mines to examine and check that their controls are adequate to prevent further incidents and injuries*

#### **What happened?**

Five coal mine workers received serious burn injuries during a gas ignition event on a longwall face in an underground mine near Moranbah. The workers are receiving hospital treatment for their injuries.

The cause of the ignition event is under investigation. The mine has been evacuated and secured to prevent persons entering the mine until gas monitoring analysis and re-entry risk assessment determines it is safe to do so.

#### **Review your safety controls**

Mine operators should review their gas, ventilation and operating management controls at all underground mines to ensure they are effective in preventing any potential for a similar incident.

Constant monitoring of the conditions and safety controls in the work environment is essential in every workplace. The effective maintenance of controls to prevent hazards affecting the health and safety of coal mine workers is of critical importance at all times.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. The investigations are ongoing and further information may be published as it becomes available.

**Stephen Smith – Regional Inspector of Mines**  
7 May 2020

**Stephen.Smith2@dnrme.qld.gov.au**  
0436 658 225