

MONTHLY Newsletter

ATM bombings

On 16 January 2007 the first meeting was held between the South African Police Services (SAPS), Explosives Unit, Department of Minerals and Energy (DME), Chamber of Mines (CoM), South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC) and members of the mining industry security section to improve explosives control on mines due to the increase in the number of ATM bombings. The forensic evidence indicates that all the explosives used dur-

ing these attacks originate from the mines. Subsequent to this the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate (MHSI) conducted various explosives audits on all mines. This explosives audit did not achieve the desired results in reducing the explosives flow from the mines as the number of ATM attacks did not decrease. A hotline was established – **0800212191**, to assist in explosives control and the mines are requested to distribute it as

widely as possible. The profile of ATM bombings could change should fatalities occur. Most recently, on 18 June 2008, a police officer was killed by ATM bombers when attending to the bombing. This statistics is unacceptable and therefore it was decided to conduct joint explosives control inspection on mines, with the Inspectors of Mines and Inspectors of Explosives which commenced during June 2008. Poor explosive control is badly

affecting the security profile of the country due to ATM bombings. Failure to adhere to explosives regulations and requirements may seriously affect the ability of the mine to acquire and store explosives on a mine establishment. In 2007, some mines have initiated independent explosives audits. These audits indicated, amongst others, that the salvage yards are at risk where explosives can easily be removed from

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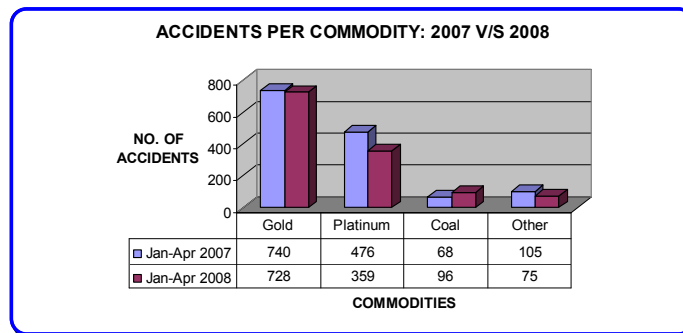
Improved safety performance in 2008

When comparing the first four months of 2008 with the same period last year, it is clear that the safety performance of the South African mining industry has improved. A total of 1 258 accidents were reported from January to April 2008 compared with 1 389 accidents reported from January to April 2007. This represents a 9.43% reduction in the number of accidents. The gold sector remains to be the main contributor of accidents in the South African mining in-

dustry. From January to April 2007 a total 740 accidents reported were in the gold sector. During the same period, the platinum sector reported 476 accidents, the other mines reported 105 accidents and the coal sec-

tor reported 68 accidents. It is clear from the graph below that there has been a decline in the number of accidents reported in all sectors, except in the coal sector when comparing the

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Department:
Minerals and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Self-contained self-rescuer alert

With reference to the 2007 Annual Report on Self-Contained Self-Rescuers (SCSRs) and in terms of the Mines Occupational Health Advisory Committee's (MOHAC) mandate that governs the Technical Tripartite Committee on SCSRs, the Department would like to inform you of occurrences involving the AfroxPac 35 belt-worn Self-Contained Self-Rescuer. In the first incident a unit caught

alight while being tested in the CSIR breathing simulator. In another, a unit was set alight after being dropped accidentally. No one was injured in these incidents and investigations are currently being completed by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to establish the causes. While waiting for further communication from the OEM we offer the following advice that could possibly prevent the occurrence of similar incidents:

- Prevent any such units from being dropped.
 - Prevent the SCSR from coming into contact with any electrical apparatus that could course an electric current through the unit. In particular arcing should be avoided (cap-lamps, welding machines).
 - Preventing the unit from being exposed to excessive heat (above 50°C).
- All units should be checked visually for any sign of electrical arcing or significant damage to the

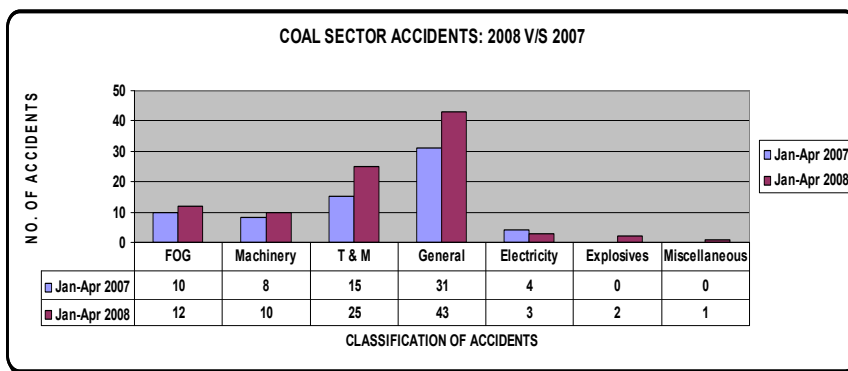
exterior casing prior to issuing. In addition, each unit should be stored, issued and worn in accordance with precautions that govern the handling and use of SCSRs in accordance with the recommendations by the OEM and instructions. The Inspectorate trust that you will find this information useful in the continued safe use of SCSR. The mining sector will be kept informed of any further development in this respect and arising from the above-mentioned investigations.

Improved safety performance in 2008

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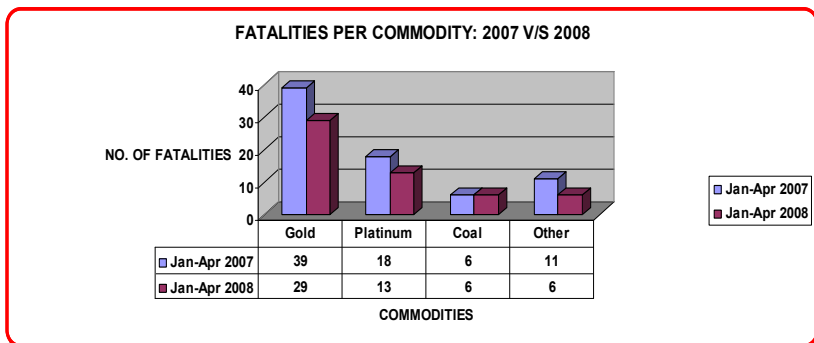
number of accidents reported in the first four months of 2008 with the first four months of 2007. There has been a reduction in the number of fatalities in all sectors, except in the coal sector, when comparing the number of fatalities reported during January to April 2008 with the same period in 2007. The graph below gives a representation of the latter comparison. There has been an increase in the number of injuries in the gold sector and the coal sector when comparing the number of injuries reported in the first four months

of 2008 with the same period in 2007. The platinum sector and other mines have shown a decline in the number of injuries during 2008. An increase in the number of accidents in the coal sector could be attributed to a high demand of coal for electrical generation. There has been an increase in the number of accidents as a result of fall of ground, machinery, transportation and mining, general, explosives and miscellaneous in the coal sector



during 2008 as seen in the graph above. In addition to the above, it should be noted that the number of injuries in the coal sector has increased in the first four months of 2008 compared with the first four months of 2007.

mining goes deeper the temperatures increase resulting in the rise in heat sickness related injuries. Load shedding could have affected the operation of ventilation systems at deep gold mines. That coupled with the general decline in the health status of workers could attribute to the increase in the heat sickness in the gold sector. The number of injuries in the gold sector in machinery, general, heat sickness and miscellaneous categories have increased in 2008 as compared with 2007.



The labour intensity and the geology of the gold sector could be factors contributing to the high number of injuries. Many gold mining workplaces are located more than 3 000 metres below surface and as

Tuberculosis remains ignored in the mining industry

“The world has made defeating AIDS a top priority..... but TB remains ignored. Today we are calling on the world to recognize that we can't fight Aids unless we do much more to fight TB as well” – Nelson Mandela, Bangkok, July 15, 2004.

The world's greatest ever statesman had spoken. All we need to do is to heed the advice from this legend.

However, four years later, the disease continues rearing its ugly head in economic, social and industrial infrastructures of all nations.

The situation is complicated by the fact that tuberculosis (TB) has developed new adaptive strains (MDR and XDR) that render anti-tuberculosics impotent.

TB has very similar proteins to our bodies for copying the DNA and the chromosome which helps it to stay intact for long periods only to resurface when the body immune mechanisms has been undermined by other diseases.

The mining industry faces even a bigger task due to exposures of employees to certain working environments that contribute favourably to the spread of TB. Given the current environment in our mining industry in general and gold mines in particular, the spread of TB is exacerbated by amongst other factors such as overcrowding, underground envi-

ronment, HIV/Aids pandemic, treatment failures and human resources practices.

Fighting TB in the mining industry needs a concerted effort from all stakeholders. It is imperative that all efforts are put in place to ensure that overcrowding in the mines and areas associated with mining activities are addressed effectively.

Full risk assessments with regard to the underground environment and ensuring that all factors conducive to the spread of the disease are addressed.

The evaluation of the effectiveness of HIV/Aids programmes on the mines as well as establishing quality assurance measures at medical centres will enhance early identification and treatment of lung diseases.

Aggressive health promotion and disease prevention strategies must be embarked upon. This includes education, information sharing and treatment of TB and other related lung conditions.

Finally the vital role that should be played by the HR departments or sections with regard to ill-health management due to TB cannot be overemphasized. Mining is dependant on good human resources management for improved productivity, healthy and safety in ensuring sustainable development for our nation.

TB FACTS:

- It is caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis - MTB
- TB is airborne and highly infectious
- Main mode of spread – droplet infection-people coughing around / near you.
- One can be infected by primary, multi-drug and/or extreme drug strains at any one time. This implies that a patient with primary / MDR / XDR can pass onto a healthy person any of the strains through droplet infection.
- Primary TB (“Normal TB”) treatment is cheap and effective.
- Treating MDR takes longer and is hundred times more expensive and in most cases not as effective.
- The risk of developing TB is higher amongst HIV positive individuals.
- Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of death in the world today.

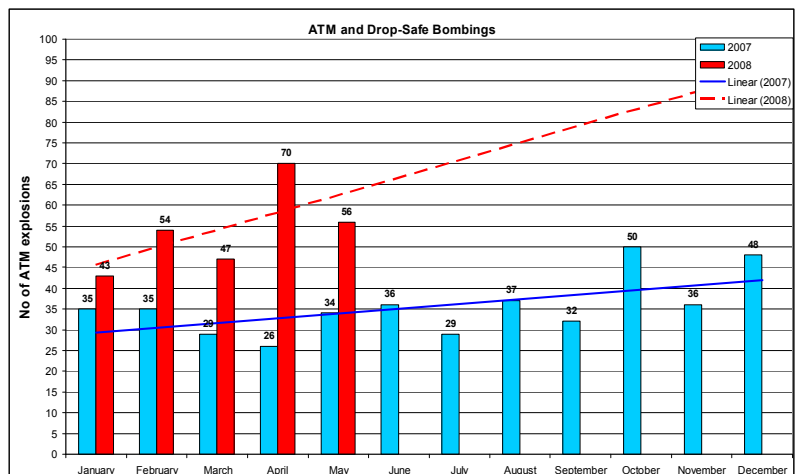
ATM bombings

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the mines.

The independent explosives audits also identified that the security personnel did not have adequate training in the identification and handling of explosive items as they regularly search

employees. In collaboration with AEL a one day course addressing the identification and handling of explosives has been developed. Mines are encouraged to embark on similar training initiatives or other initiatives that may lead to improved explosives control.



Statistics on the use of mine explosives on ATM's and drop-safe bombings

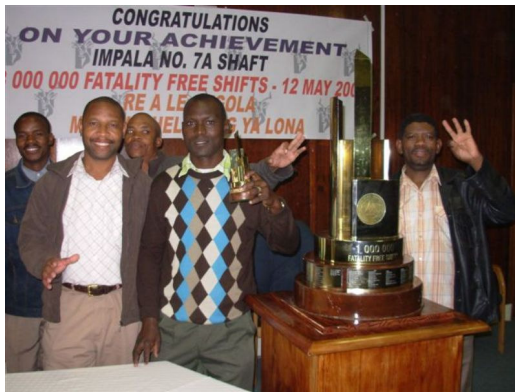
MHSC Award Scheme

The mission of the Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) Award Scheme is the development of a set of prestigious awards on behalf of the Council. These awards are given to participating mines to recognize the challenge of achieving high standards of health and safety in South African mines.

Since its inception on 1 January 2000, a total of 484 mines have been awarded trophies for their achievements in safety under the auspices of the MHSC Award Scheme. Of this total, 247 mines received awards in the category of Million Fatality Free Shifts and 237 mines in the category of Thousand Fatality Free Production Shifts. Recognition for shifts previously accumulated were given to mines who were previously registered on the Chamber of Mines competition. The main difference between the two schemes is that the production shifts categories,

previously open only to collieries, is now open to all mines.

The Award Scheme is administered by the Support Services Unit of the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate (MHSI) for the MHSC. To be eligible for participation in the Award Scheme a mine must be registered as a mine at the Minerals Bureau of the Department of Minerals and Energy and must be an operating mine. Mines which are part of the Award Scheme are very much aware of the fact of how much it means to the employees when the mine is awarded. "I still can't describe the feeling of joy on the faces of the employees at the award function



Presentation of the 3 000 000 fatality free shifts award Impala 7A shaft in North-West Region

tions and the importance attached to the trophy. Everyone wants to be photographed alongside it" said Ms Renée Joubert. The highest achievers up to date

in the two categories respectively are 10 million fatality free shifts and 30 thousand fatality free production shifts.

Diarize the following:

July 2008

- 4: Mine Engineers examination results available
- 18: Closing date for the remarks applications for Mine Surveyors
- 25: Closing date for remarks applications for Mine Managers

August 2008

- 1: Submission of remarks by moderators for Mine Surveyors
- 1: Closing date for the remarks of Mine Engineers examinations
- 8: Closing date for applications of acceptance for October examinations for Mine Surveyors
- 8: Submission of remarks by moderators for Mine Managers
- 8: Closing date for submission of draft examination papers by examiners for October 2008 examinations for Mine Managers
- 15: Closing date for applications of acceptance for October 2008 examinations for Mine Managers
- 22: Closing date for applications of acceptance for November examinations for Mine Engineers
- 26: Commission meeting for final moderation and acceptance for October 2008 examinations papers for Mine Managers
- 29: Closing date for October 2008 examinations for Mine Surveyors
- 29: Commission meeting for Mine Engineers

Erratum

The table published in the April—May 2008 edition of this newsletter displayed the incorrect information with regard to the diamond and coal sectors. The correct information is displayed in the table to the right.

	Silicosis	PTB	NIHL	Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis	Asbestosis	Silica TB	Other
GOLD	1620	3812	626	0	0	518	185
PLATINUM	24	358	926	4	9	0	0
COAL	9	127	73	22	1	5	2
DIAMOND	9	9	23	0	2	0	0
OTHER	11	176	172	10	1	2	31
TOTAL	1673	4482	1820	36	13	525	218

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES CAPTURED PER COMMODITY FROM ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORTS:
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CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORATE AND PUBLISHED BY:
SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT

Victoria Mathibeli (Director)
Tel: +27(0)12-3178462
E-mail: victoria.mathibeli@dme.gov.za

Monja Erasmus
Tel: +27(0)12-3178103
E-mail: monja.erasmus@dme.gov.za

Renée Joubert
Tel: +27(0)12-3178510
E-mail: rene.joubert@dme.gov.za

Pride Shongwe
Tel: +27(0)12-3178326
E-mail: pride.Shongwe@dme.gov.za

COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Siyabonga Kheswa
Tel: +27(0)12-3178518
E-mail: siyabonga.kheswa@dme.gov.za