There were three fatal accidents in the Western Australian mineral industry during 2009–2010:

- A service crewman employed at an underground gold mine was fatally injured when he fell through an open manhole into the lower chamber of the vessel and then to the ground via a stepladder. The vessel comprised two separate but adjoining chambers. The worker apparently injured in the early hours of the morning when he fell at least 25 metres inside a process vessel and struck the ground. His body was discovered in the early hours of the morning.
- An underground loader operator employed at an underground nickel mine was fatally injured when he drove a head-on during a (0.5) machine into an open stepladder and fell about 24 metres.
- An employee of a high-pressure water de-scaling contractor working at an alumina refinery was fatally injured during a 4-hour shift when he was struck by a jackhammer while working on the roof of a tank.

In the accidents and incidents section, the overall LTI frequency rate deteriorated significantly by 49% during 2009–10, rising from 2.2 to 2.5. The overall LTI frequency rate deteriorated by 14% during 2008–09, rising from 2.5 to 2.9. The nickel and alumina sector LTI frequency rate deteriorated significantly by 17% during 2009–10, rising from 2.03 to 2.4. The gold sector LTI frequency rate deteriorated significantly by 5% during 2009–10, rising from 1.8 to 1.9. The nickel sector LTI frequency rate deteriorated significantly by 15% during 2009–10, rising from 2.4 to 2.7. There were 873 DIs during 2009–10, 65 more than the previous year (808 injuries in 2008–09).

In the mining industry during 2009–10 totalled 54,597 injuries, which is 7% more than for the previous year (50,907 injuries in 2008–09).

In the nickel sector LTI frequency rate deteriorated by 15% during 2009–10, rising from 3.5 to 3.1. The overall injury index remained unchanged from 2008–09.

In the overall LTI frequency rate deteriorated by 11% during 2009–10, rising from 21.8 to 24.1.

There was an average workforce of 68,778 employees in 2009–10, an increase of 1% over the previous year (70,307 employees in 2008–09).

CONCERN: For more detailed information on safety performance, see the annual compilations at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety.