

HIGH POTENTIAL RISK CONTROL

In 2017, we introduced two additional incident categories – Serious Injuries and Potential Fatal Occurrences (PFOs)– elevating the profile of high-risk events to ensure that these are treated with appropriate seriousness and concern. Starting in mid-2017 and carrying through 2018, an evaluation of the root causes and trends of these two incident classifications revealed that the majority of Serious Injuries have been hand or finger injuries (e.g. fractures or finger amputations or partial amputations), and the majority of PFOs have been interactions between heavy mobile equipment, light vehicles and/or workers on the ground. These are “classic” findings within construction and heavy industry, but still serve to highlight where risks are elevated within our operations and require corrective action. We have implemented several controls at our sites, including removing workers from certain activities/ areas (e.g. additional equipment isolation, removing spotters from tipping faces, etc.), conducting training, and awareness campaigns on manual handling techniques (focused on hand and extremity injuries). These hazards and risks (associated with hand/finger injuries and with equipment/vehicle/worker interactions) are significant risks at all of our operations and, in 2019, we will foster collaboration between our sites to ensure that we reduce these risks and build on our OHS successes across the B2Gold organization.

To further learn from these high potential risk events, in 2018 we also formalized a company-wide significant incident alert system whereby we are able to quickly and effectively share the lessons from the investigation of a high risk occurrence or incident at one operation with all other operations. Sites are then required to evaluate the incident and risks with respect to their operation and implement proactive corrective actions if unacceptable risks are identified. This system was rolled out in the second half of 2018 and has been highly successful in alerting other operations to potential high-risk activities or hazards before an incident occurs at another operation.

CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT IN HSE OUR GLOBAL HSE CONFERENCE

In June 2018, B2Gold held its first ever global HSE Conference at our Masbate Mine in the Philippines. We brought together over 20 of our senior HSE personnel from five operating mines (and our Burkina Faso development project) with the objective of sharing knowledge and experience and creating stronger personal and professional connections among our sites and HSE personnel. Some of our leading HSE practices from across our operations were presented with discussions on how they can be adapted to improve practices globally.

Among the topics covered were incident investigation, occupational hygiene, waste rock dump design and slope stabilization, and progressive rehabilitation. Field demonstrations of revegetation techniques, emergency response drills and other topics were addressed. The experiences gained will serve as part of individual professional growth, and also to increase the capacity of our global HSE teams. The Conference was supported at every level of the Company, with executives in attendance, showing that HSE performance is a top priority for B2Gold.



In 2019, B2Gold will continue to implement measures to reduce risks and incidents in these two identified areas (hand/finger injuries and equipment/vehicle/worker interactions). We will also continue to evaluate the root causes of the high-risk incidents, evaluate future trends, and implement necessary controls to eliminate high potential risks. One area of improvement will be the reporting of near miss incidents – incidents that did not result in injury or damage but had the potential to do so. Near miss incidents can be an indicator of potential increased risks, and improving the recognition and reporting of near miss incidents can significantly improve worker safety and safety culture.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

We have a responsibility and commitment to protect the health and well-being of our workers, contractors and visitors to our sites. We seek to identify and manage risks that arise from physical, chemical, and other workplace hazards by anticipating, identifying, evaluating, and controlling these health hazards and exposures. To accomplish this, our sites carry out specific occupational health activities and programs, depending on the exposure at each site.

Our OHS Policy and seven Occupational Health Performance Standards are the primary tools that guide our efforts towards eliminating workplace health hazards and occupational illnesses. These standards require that occupational health evaluation, planning and design are integrated into our business development strategies. B2Gold monitors all sites to verify they are meeting industrial hygiene standards, including regulations on dust, noise control, and ergonomics. We also promote wellness, including initiatives regarding fitness for work, personal nutrition, HIV/AIDS, malaria prevention and fatigue management. We have identified that musculoskeletal strains and fatigue management are some of the top health risks at our operations and we have implemented programs to address these risks.