

SAFETY AND RESCUE

“Safety First & Production Must” With this mantra Eastern Coalfields Limited is determined to achieve the goal of ‘Zero Harm Potential’ as an integral part of its sustainable mining process. As such, ECL has taken a multi-pronged approach towards the safety of the workers & mines during the year 2023-24 by deploying suitable technical, administrative & humanitarian initiatives to improve our safety standards.

Accident Statistics:

Sl. No.	Particulars	2023-24	2022-23
1.	Fatal Accidents (Nos.)	03	02
2.	Fatalities (Nos.)	05	02
3.	Serious Accidents (Nos.)	04	06
4.	Serious Injuries (Nos.)	05	06
5.	Fatality/Million Tonne output	0.105	0.057
6.	Fatality/3 Lakh Man-shifts	0.126	0.049
7.	Serious Injury / Million Tonne Output	0.105	0.171
8.	Serious / 3 Lakh Man-shifts	0.126	0.146

Safety Awareness:

Delivery of pre-shift safety talk is being practiced in all mines to sensitize the workers about various hazards present in their work environment and how to safely perform their jobs in such hazardous conditions. Along with supervisors’, workers are also being encouraged to actively take part in these pre-shift safety talks.

In order to increase awareness amongst employee, 12 Nos. of safety drives at various areas for both underground and opencast mines were organized during the year.

Safety Board Bipartite Inspection have been conducted regularly in all the Areas throughout the year.

Tripartite Safety Committee meetings were convened in all Areas from 21.11.2023 to 30.11.2023.

62nd Corporate Level Tripartite Safety Committee Meeting was held at ECL HQ on 06.02.2024.

Corporate Level Bipartite Safety Committee Meetings between Safety Board Members from different unions and ECL Management were held on 19.06.2023, 27.09.2023, and 07.03.2024.

Final Day Function of Annual Mines Safety Week 2022 was celebrated on 18.05.2023.

Annual Safety Week for 2023-24 session was observed under the guidance of DGMS from 11.12.2023 to 16.12.2023 in all the mines, PME Centers, VT Centers along with six captive mines of the region.

Monthly co-ordination meetings with Agents and ASOs from all Areas were arranged at corporate level.

ILO day for safety and health at work was celebrated on 28th April, 2023.

Various workshops & seminars have been conducted throughout the year to sensitize the workforce.

Training for conducting investigation into accidents/incidents in Mines Based on Root Cause Analysis Techniques was conducted in collaboration with IIT (ISM), Dhanbad.



Safety improvement:

There has been a decrease of 12.5% in total accidents and a 33% decrease in serious accidents during 2023-24 in comparison to 2022-23.

57 mines which is about 77% of the operational mines of ECL are free from fatal, serious & reportable accidents during 2023-24.

The list of winners and runners-up of various categories of National Safety Awards (Mines) – 2021, published in 2023-24 had 5 winners & 3 runners-up in various categories from ECL.

2 Mines of ECL received the prestigious Star Rating Awards from the Ministry of Coal for 2021-22 on 22nd December, 2023.

Safety Action Calendar was prepared in March 2023, scheduling different safety-related activities that have been successfully undertaken during 2023-24.

Safety Audit of all mines of ECL was completed on 31.08.2023 and all Units have submitted their compliance by 30.11.2023, all Areas have completed their compliance on 29.02.2024 & ISO from ECL HQ confirmed the compliance on 30.03.2024.

Workers participation in Safety:

All Area Level & Corporate level Tripartite Meetings with DGMS & Trade Unions have been successfully conducted during 2023-24.

Company level Safety Board Members, representing the operating trade unions, along with ISO executives have inspected all the mines once during the financial year.

Representative of contractors' workers have been included in the Safety Committee of the mines.

Special thrust has been given to strengthen & empower Safety Committee of the mines. Senior officials (e.g. Area General Managers, Agents & ISO Representatives) are regularly attending the Safety Committee meetings to enhance its importance.

Monsoon preparedness:

From 15th June, 2023 to 15th October, 2023 Monsoon Control Rooms at HQ, Area & Unit level were made operational on 24X7 basis, which were manned by executives provided with telephone & vehicle for their movement keeping close liaison with one another.

Officer in-charge of Monsoon Control Room maintained close liaison with the Chief Engineer (Hydel) of DVC, Maithon for getting 'Flood Warning Messages', whenever Panchet and Maithon dams released water causing rise in the water level of rivers prompt alerts were given to mines likely to be under danger.

Officer in-charge of Monsoon Control Room also maintained close liaison with the Director of Indian Meteorological Department, Alipur, Kolkata and the Director of Area Cyclone Warning Centre, Alipur, Kolkata for obtaining 'Weather Forecast Reports' for alerting the Areas to be affected by heavy rain & thunder storms.

For upcoming Monsoon of 2024-25, following advance actions have been initiated:

Monsoon action plans from all mines of ECL were submitted to the Safety Department, ECL HQ on 31.01.2024,

Area Safety Officers of ECL have been instructed to act as Nodal Officer of their respective Area regarding monitoring & review of all Monsoon Activities,

In the Co-ordination meeting held in February, 2024 as well as in March, 2024 chaired by General Manager (Safety), all the Areas of ECL have been advised to finalize their work orders regarding the activities held respective to their Areas as per their respective Monsoon Action Plan – 2024 before the onset of Monsoon Season,

A multidisciplinary team from the Safety, E&M and Civil Departments of ECL HQ conducted review meetings with all the Areas of ECL from 14.03.2024 to 27.03.2024.

Rescue Services:

Need based rescue services were provided to all collieries of ECL, Chanch Victoria Area of BCCL, Ramnagar Colliery of IISCO as well as to Civil Administration and Public Authorities through Mines Rescue Station, Sitarampur, Rescue Room with Refresher Training (RRRT), Kenda and Rescue Rooms operating at Jhanjra and Mugma.

Emergency Services:

Sl. No.	Colliery	Area	Date	Nature of occurrence/job
1.	Bahula Colliery	Kenda	07.05.2023 to 17.05.2023	Reopening of the mine.This was sealed off due to spontaneous heating.
2.	Satgram Project	Satgram-Sripur	15.11.2023 to 27.11.2023	Dealing with spontaneous heating in depillaring panel No. D1.
3.	Satgram Project	Satgram-Sripur	19.03.2024	Re opening of sectionalized developed panel No. 0 Rise Section.

Rescue Training:

Refresher as well as initial training programs were conducted at Mines Rescue Station and trained following personnel:

Details	2023-24	2022-23
No. of active rescue trained personnel	479	469
No. of personnel freshly trained	87	44
No. of Refresher practices imparted	4174	2946
No. of Emergencies attended	03	04
No of person freshly trained in First Aid	221	220
No of Air sample analyzed by Gas Chromatograph	2230	2515

First Aid Training:

Sitarampur Mines Rescue Station has been recognized by DGMS as a centre for imparting training in First Aid and issuing First Aid Certificates. During the year 2023-24, five hundred and forty-five (545) employees were trained and certificates were provided. Apart from this, Inter Area First Aid Competition of ECL was conducted at Mine Rescue Station, Sitarampur on 17.01.2024, in which 28 Nos. of teams of 5 members each, participated from all the Areas of ECL including two female teams and Zonal Mine Rescue Competition was held at Mines Rescue Station, Sitarampur on 9th & 10th October, 2023. One demonstration on CPR and first Aid was conducted by Rescue Team of ECL at DRM office, Asansol (Eastern Railway) on 15.03.2024.

