

# Environmental Compliance and Incident Management

## WHY THIS TOPIC MATTERS TO EQUINOX GOLD

Our activities are subject to an array of environmental laws, regulations and standards that govern the full cycle of operations, from pre-mining exploration to operations and end of mine closure plans. In recent years, the mining sector has faced growing scrutiny of its environmental performance, which in turn has led to increased regulatory requirements around environmental protection. Navigating and conforming to these requirements is both a compliance and business imperative for Equinox Gold.



# Our Approach

In 2021 we established a formal Environment and Climate Change Policy that summarizes our commitment to achieving excellence in environmental performance and our expectations for our workforce and suppliers.

We are implementing international standards, principles and best practices to prevent, where possible, or mitigate the environmental impacts of our activities. Each of our mining operations

has a dedicated environmental team that monitors and manages the environmental risks from our business and implements an Environmental Management System that is compliant with ISO 14001. We also adhere to the International Cyanide Management Code to reduce the potential of cyanide-related environmental impacts at all of our operations.

## MORE INFORMATION

- [Environment and Climate Change Policy](#)







# Managing Environmental Incidents

One of our most important management tools is tracking the frequency and nature of environmental incidents. All of our mining and exploration projects report, investigate and remediate environmental incidents in compliance with Equinox Gold’s Incident Reporting Guidelines. These guidelines ensure consistent categorization of incidents across all jurisdictions and allow us to share lessons learned through incident investigations so we can continually improve.

Since 2020, we have provided quarterly environmental performance updates on our website. We use a stringent internally developed five-tier rating system that classifies incidents as ‘low,’ ‘minor,’ ‘moderate,’ ‘major’ or ‘catastrophic.’ Incidents classified as moderate or above are considered ‘significant’ and include:

- Cyanide spills outside of normal containment area
- Wildlife deaths due to cyanide
- Death of species with special protection status according to local jurisdiction
- Environment-related regulatory non-compliance that triggers regulatory reporting
- Spills that trigger regulatory reporting
- Confirmed abnormal monitoring results detecting cyanide outside of a cyanide facility, or a breach of permit conditions

Having a clear, easy-to-follow classification system allows any employee or contractor to record a wide variety of environmental incidents, including non-conformance with internal procedures, and encourages reporting of all incidents so action can be taken to prevent recurrence.

# Accountability

All employees and contractors are required to follow our Environment and Climate Change Policy and to record and report environmental incidents. The Company’s Director of Environmental Affairs has general responsibility for monitoring and collating incident reporting data from the mine sites and providing this information to the Company’s VP Health, Safety and Environment, who reports any significant events to the Company’s Chief Operating Officer. Environmental performance is also reported quarterly to the Board’s ESG Committee and published on our website.



# Our Performance in 2022

0.63

Significant Environmental Incident Frequency Rate

Zero

incidents higher than 'moderate'

Zero

notices of fines

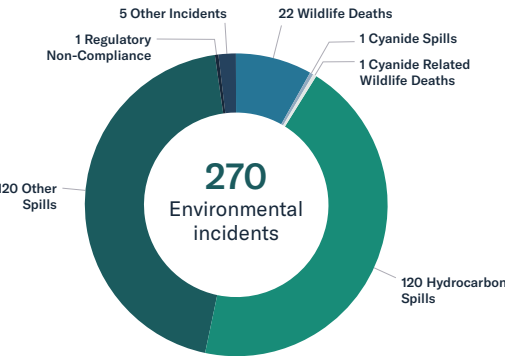
- Improved 7% compared to 2021 and performed 61% better than our 2022 target of 1.6, with a SEIFR of 0.63
- Remained in compliance with all environmental permits
- Implemented software to better manage incident reporting and investigation
- Recertified Los Filos in compliance with the International Cyanide Management Code

One of our key achievements during 2022 was implementing software to provide integrated environmental performance and risk management tracking. The technology allows us to better manage incident reporting and standardize the documentation and investigation of incidents. Following implementation of the software and a concurrent education program regarding the importance of reporting environmental incidents we noticed a marked increase in

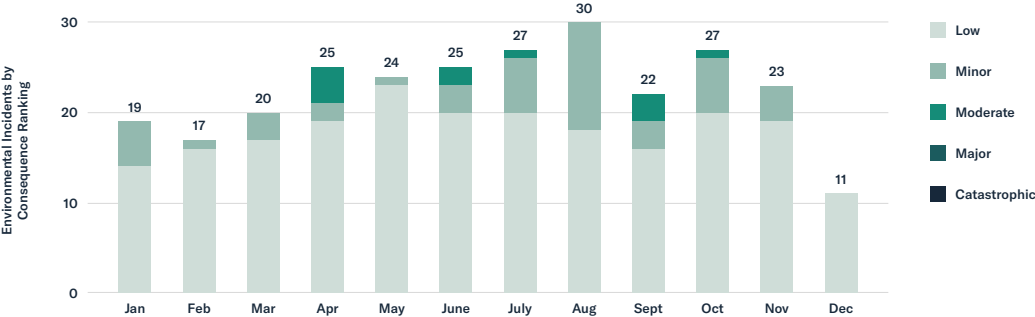
incident reporting, with 270 environmental incidents recorded in 2022 compared to 126 in 2021. Only by tracking what is happening at our sites can we identify the cause of the incidents and then implement the training or procedural modifications required to improve our performance.

The vast majority of incidents were hydrocarbon spills (44%) and other spills (45%). None were classified higher than 'moderate.'

2022 ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY



2022 ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS BY CONSEQUENCE RANKING



## PRIORITIES FOR 2023

- Cyanide Code compliance: Aurizona and RDM are scheduled to undergo certification audits for compliance with the International Cyanide Management Code in 2023. Also, Fazenda will undergo a re-certification audit and Greenstone will undergo a “pre-operational” certification audit.
- Finalize our Equinox Gold Environmental Management Standards.

